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SOURCES: UN WATCHDOG HIDING EVIDENCE ON IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

August 19, 2009 Haaretz.com reported: "The world's nuclear weapons watchdog is hiding data on Iran's drive to obtain nuclear arms, senior Western diplomats and Israeli officials told Haaretz.

The officials and diplomats said that the International Atomic Energy Agency under Director General Mohamed ElBaradei was refraining from publishing evidence obtained by its inspectors over the past few months that indicate Iran was pursuing information about weaponization efforts and a military nuclear program.

ElBaradei, who will soon vacate his post, has said that the agency does not have any evidence that suggests Iran is developing a nuclear weapon.

But the sources told Haaretz that the new evidence was submitted to the IAEA in a classified annex written by its inspectors in the Islamic Republic. The report was said to have been signed by the head of the IAEA team in Iran.

The classified report, according to the sources, was not incorporated into the agency's published reports. The details, they said, were censored by senior officials of the IAEA in the organization's Vienna headquarters.

American, French, British and German senior officials have recently pressured ElBaradei to publish the information next month in a report due to be released at the organization's general conference.

"We expect the details to appear in the new report and to be made public," a senior Western diplomat told Haaretz.

The efforts to release the allegedly censored report is being handled in Israel by Dr. Shaul Horev, director general of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, and the Foreign Ministry. Asked about this sensitive subject, several Israeli diplomats declined to comment. The Prime Minister's Bureau also declined to comment, but the report was not denied.

Israel has been striving to pressure the IAEA through friendly nations and have it release the censored annex. It hopes to prove that the Iranian effort to develop nuclear weapons is continuing, contrary to claims that Tehran stopped its nuclear program in 2003. A confirmation of these suspicion would oblige the international community to enact "paralyzing sanctions" on Iran.

Throughout his term, Israel has accused ElBaradei of not tackling the Iranian nuclear issue with sufficient determination. As the end of his term in December nears, Israeli diplomats are concerned that he will become less responsive and continue to hide the classified report.

Jerusalem is hoping, however, that his successor, Japanese diplomat Yukiya Amano, will take up a tougher line on the Iranian nuclear program.

In its recent references to Iran, the IAEA criticized Iran for barring inspectors from its nuclear facilities, but did not accuse Tehran of developing nuclear weapons. Most of the reports were concerned with efforts to enrich uranium or to produce heavy water, without making conclusions as to where these resources might be applied.

The international community is expected to examine the issue of nuclear proliferation during three major international conferences over the next six months.

On September 14, the IAEA general convention will commence in Vienna, where the next report on the Iranian nuclear program will be officially presented.

On September 24, the UN Security Council will meet for a special discussion of weapon control and nuclear weapons proliferation, at the initiative of U.S. President Barack Obama. Obama is also calling an international conference on the security of nuclear installations in Washington on March 9, 2010."



BOEING UNVEILS NEW ANTI-MISSILE CONCEPT

August 20, 2009 The Jerusalem Post reports: "In a bid to allay Russian fears of possible US missile-defense sites in Europe, Boeing has unveiled a proposal to build a mobile interceptor missile, Reuters reported Thursday.

The 47,500-pound interceptor could be flown to NATO bases when required on Boeing-built C-17 cargo planes, swiftly put up on a 60-foot trailer stand and removed when safe, according to the report.

'If a fixed site is going to be just too hard to get implemented, politically or otherwise, we didn't want people to think that the only way you needed to use a GBI was in a fixed silo,' Greg Hyslop, Boeing's vice president and general manager for missile defense, told Reuters at a

US Army-sponsored missile-defense conference in Huntsville, Alabama.

Boeing had just started briefing the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency on the proposal, Hyslop said. The project could be completed by 2015, and would probably cost less than had been planned for the silo-based interceptors, he said.

On Tuesday, the American Raytheon Corporation said it was developing a land-based version of its existing Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) that could be used to defend Europe, Israel and elsewhere..."

RUSSIAN, ISRAELI LEADERS DISCUSS MIDEAST PEACE, IRAN

August 18, 2009 Voice of America reported: "Israeli President Shimon Peres says he is confident Russia can play a key role in restarting the stalled Middle East peace process. Mr. Peres spoke Tuesday, alongside his Russian counterpart, Dmitri Medvedev, after talks in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

For his part, Mr. Medvedev said all parties in the Middle East conflict should give up what he called "confrontation scenarios" and adopt a "calmer approach." He also said Russia, as a member of the quartet of international mediators, will promote those goals.

The two leaders also discussed Israeli and Western concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions. Moscow maintains close commercial ties with the Tehran government. Both Israel and the United States have accused Iran of clandestine efforts to build a nuclear weapon. Iran says its nuclear program is aimed at peaceful applications.

The two leaders also marked the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II by condemning Holocaust deniers and those who have sought to minimize the contributions of the Soviet Union in defeating Nazi Germany. The presidents, in a joint statement, called such efforts "a direct affront to everyone ... who fought against Nazism."

TRADE FIGURES SWELL HOPE OF EU RECOVERY

August 18, 2009 EU Observer reported: "The eurozone's trade surplus doubled in June, boosting the mildly positive mood over the 16-strong bloc's economic performance. But analysts warn that recent positive signals are still too weak to suggest the beginning of a steady recovery.

According to preliminary figures released by Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, on Monday (17 August), the euro area saw a surplus of €4.6 billion in trade balance with the rest of the world in June, up from a zero difference between exports and imports recorded a year before. It is the highest figure for two years.

Back in May, the eurozone's trade balance amounted to a surplus of €2.1 billion against a deficit of €3.8 billion in May 2009.

The same positive trend has been only partially copied for the whole of the EU's 27 member states, however. The bloc's trade balance remained in the red in June, with a deficit of €4.3 billion, compared with €7.2 billion in May and €19.3 billion last June.

A boost in exports came mainly from Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, while the UK, France and Spain registered the largest trade deficits. Across different sectors, the EU's trade mainly benefited the energy business while the surplus fell for machinery, vehicles and chemicals, according to Eurostat."..."



ARAB LEAGUE WANTS EU TO BACK MONITORING OF ISRAELI NUKES

August 17, 2009 The EU Observer reported: "The Arab League has requested that the European Union back its resolution calling on Israel to submit to international monitoring of its alleged nuclear capability at next month's general assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

According to a report in Ha'aretz, the centre-left Israeli daily, the secretary-general of the League of Arab States, Amr Moussa, sent a letter to Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt, whose country currently chairs the EU's six-month rotating presidency, urging the bloc to back the resolution, which would request that Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and open itself up to inspection by IAEA personnel.

Though Israel is widely assumed to be a nuclear power, with IAEA director-general Mohamed El Baradi categorising the country as such, Tel Aviv has never officially admitted to having nuclear weapons, preferring instead to maintain a policy known as "nuclear ambiguity."

Arab states perennially attempt to have similar resolutions passed at the global nuclear energy watchdog's 150-member general assembly, but have up to now not succeeded in winning over other delegations, including European representatives, to their point of view."..."

U.S. EXPECTS ISRAEL GOVT. RESHUFFLE

August 19, 2009 The Middle East Newsline reported: "The administration of President Barack Obama expects Israel to undergo a major government reshuffle that would significantly reduce the influence of supporters of Jewish settlement in the West Bank. Sources close to the administration said Obama has received messages that the government of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu could order a Cabinet shakeup and restructuring of his coalition over the next few weeks. They said the shakeup would be sparked by the indictment of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on corruption charges. "Senior administration officials have been told that the indictment of Lieberman is imminent and then everything will change," a source close to the White House said..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*