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IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER THROWS COLD WATER ON NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

November 3, 2009 VOAnews.com reported: "Voice of America News reports: "Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei says that Tehran 'does not want negotiations with the West if the 'results are pre-determined by the United States.' The Ayatollah's remarks follow the government's observance of the 30th anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The crowd chanted 'death to America' as Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told the group of young people that Tehran 'does not want negotiations' with the United States, if the terms of any deal amount to a U.S. diktat.

He says that the United States and its allies tell us to our faces that they are seeking negotiations, but then, when they do not get what they want, they make threats. Is this, he asks, what they call negotiations?

The message came amid an ongoing flurry of contradictory signals by top Iranian officials over Tehran's position on a draft U.N. nuclear accord that would require sending 80 percent of its low-grade uranium abroad for enrichment.

The Ayatollah devoted long portions of his speech to castigating the United States, at a gathering that was billed as a 'condemnation of arrogant powers.' He went on to defend what he called Tehran's 'legitimate rights.'

He says what Iran wants is nothing more than its legitimate right. Iran, he argues, seeks its independence, freedom, national interests, along with scientific and technological progress. He warns that Iran will confront any opponent that challenges those rights with all its might, and bring them down to their knees.

Ayatollah Khamenei's threat to bring Iran's opponents to their knees appeared to be an allusion to the 1979 take-over of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, at the start of the Iranian Revolution. Iran will celebrate the 30th anniversary of that take-over, Wednesday."

REPORT: MOSSAD HACKED SYRIAN COMPUTER TO UNCOVER NUKE SITE

November 2, 2009 Haaretz reported: "Israel's Mossad espionage agency used Trojan Horse programs to gather intelligence about a nuclear facility in Syria the Israel Defense Forces destroyed in 2007, the German magazine Der Spiegel reported Monday.

According to the magazine, Mossad agents in London planted the malware on the computer of a Syrian official who was staying in the British capital; he was at a hotel in the upscale neighborhood of Kensington at the time.

The program copied the details of Syria's illicit nuclear program and sent them directly to the Mossad agents' computers, the report said.

Israel's September 6, 2007, raid on the al-Kabir site in Syria's eastern desert is said to have knocked out the country's reportedly nearly-completed reactor.

Israel has refused from the beginning to comment on, confirm or deny the strike, but after a delay of several months Washington presented intelligence purporting to show the target was a reactor being built with North Korean help..."



US GENERALS AND SOLDIERS FLOOD ISRAEL

November 4, 2009 Israel Today reported: "A large number of American generals and at least 1,500 US soldiers arrived in Israel this week for one of the largest joint land exercises ever held between the two nations. Dubbed "Juniper Cobra," the exercise, which is held every year, but never before on such a large scale, is scheduled to last three weeks.

One of the visiting US generals told Israel media that the exercise is in response to "specific threats," which every took to mean primarily the Iranian nuclear threat. There was much speculation that the exercise signaled the US had nearly given up on diplomatic efforts to curb Iran's nuclear program, and was gearing up for the aftermath of an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities."

RUSSIA CRITICIZES POLAND'S CALL FOR US TROOPS

November 5, 2009 The Associated Press reported: "Russia's foreign minister said Thursday he was surprised by Poland's call for more U.S. troops on Polish soil in response to Moscow's assertiveness, a news agency reported.

RIA Novosti quoted minister Sergei Lavrov as saying that the request by his Polish counterpart, Radek Sikorski, contradicted Moscow's and Warsaw's understanding of security issues in Europe.

"If he did say that, it makes me deeply astonished," Lavrov said.

Sikorski said Wednesday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington that "we need some strategic reassurance," and that the U.S. could provide it by sending more than the six American troops it now has based in Poland. The minister said that need became clear when Russia and Belarus conducted a military exercise with hundreds of tanks near Poland's border last month.

Sikorski said that when Poland joined NATO 10 years ago, Russia was assured that no substantial NATO forces would be sent to the region. But, the minister said, the security situation has since changed.

Poland also raised concerns about its security when the Obama administration decided in September to scrap a plan to deploy long-range missile interceptors in Poland and a radar system in the Czech Republic."

CZECH COURT LIFTS LAST LEGAL HURDLE TO EU TREATY

November 3, 2009(3:23am) The Associated Press reported: "A Czech court struck down a complaint against the EU reform treaty on Tuesday, removing the proposed charter's last legal hurdle and intensifying pressure on President Vaclav Klaus to sign it.

The Constitutional Court's chief judge, Pavel Rychetsky, said the Lisbon Treaty, which has already been ratified by other member nations, "does not violate the (Czech) constitution."

At the end of the ruling, whose reading took almost two hours, Rychetsky said all formal obstacles for ratification "are removed."

Klaus is the last obstacle to the full ratification of the treaty, which is designed to transform Europe into a more unified and powerful global player. The charter, which was bogged down in negotiations for almost a decade, has been ratified by all other 26 EU nations.

In Brussels, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said he was "extremely pleased" with the verdict.

"Together with the commitments given by all member states to the Czech government at the European Council last week, I believe that no further unnecessary delays should prevent the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty," Barroso said.

"I hope that we can now move forward as quickly as possible on the nomination of the president of the European Council and vice president of the Commission High Representative," he said, referring to the newly-created post of president, who will chair EU summits, and the bloc's new foreign policy chief, who will represent the EU abroad.

"The decision clears the way for President Vaclav Klaus to sign and finalize the ratification of the treaty and I am very confident he will do so," said Jerzy Buzek, president of the European Parliament. "The Treaty of Lisbon should now enter into force by the end of the year."..."

CZECH PRESIDENT SIGNS EU REFORM TREATY

November 3, 2009 (7:30am) The AP reported: "Czech President Vaclav Klaus has signed the EU reform treaty, completing the ratification process of a charter designed to transform Europe into a more unified and powerful global player.



Klaus, widely known as a Euro-skeptic, says he signed the Lisbon Treaty at the Prague Castle at 3 p.m. (1400 GMT), just hours after his nation's Constitutional Court ruled that the document, which already has been ratified by all other EU nations, does not violate the country's constitution. Klaus said he respects the court decision, even though he does not agree with it.

Before signing the charter, EU leaders agreed last week to Klaus' last-minute demand _ an opt-out from the treaty's Charter of Fundamental Rights."

UK OPPOSITION LEADER TO AVOID 'BUST-UP' ON EUROPE

November 05, 2009 EUObserver.com reported: "David Cameron, leader of the UK Conservative opposition, has abandoned talk of holding a referendum on the EU's latest treaty but has promised to seek repatriation of powers in key European Union policy areas should his party come to power next year.

In a speech as keenly watched in Brussels as among his own backbenchers, Mr Cameron said he would "not rush into some massive euro bust-up" and, in a pointed message to the most eurosceptic wing of the party - for whom Europe has long been a thoroughly divisive issue - he said he was not willing to "concoct a new pretext for a referendum."

Instead, he made a series of other promises including repatriation of social and employment legislation; a strengthened opt-out from the Charter of Fundamental Rights and preventing EU judges from extending European jurisdiction over UK criminal law any further than currently is the case.

He also pledged that a referendum will be held on any future EU treaty as well as before joining the euro while a United Kingdom sovereignty bill will be introduced to underline that "ultimate authority" lies with the UK parliament. British law-makers should also have the last say over what he called a 'ratchet' clause, under which member states may agree to abolish their vetoes in an area without the need for a new treaty.

"I believe these things can stop Britain's relationship with the EU from heading in the wrong direction," said Mr Cameron, who is tipped to become prime minister after a general election next spring.

He was galvanised into making his position on Europe clear after the Czech Republic earlier this week ratified the Lisbon Treaty, a move that will allow it to go into force next month."..."