

Package Will Expose Western Intentions

> Compiled by Davood Baqeri

When Iran announced that it has prepared a proposal to help resolve the regional and international problems, there were no immediate reactions from European and regional leaders as well as the media.

But after receiving positive signals from some corners, Iran's foreign policy apparatus initiated negotiations with some countries to explain the package and seek their response.

In fact, the proposal will once again reveal whether the West has good intentions about settling all issues of conflict with Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to come up with a proposal package to resolve regional and international problems through dialogue with opposing parties," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on April 13.

After Mottaki's announcement, the package was examined in meetings between Iranian and Russian officials as well as a phone conversation between Saeed Jalili, Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey.

Calmy-Rey praised the Islamic Republic's initiative and said she was happy to discuss the package with Tehran.

Her comment came as the country in the past had made some initiatives to resolve Iran's nuclear deadlock with the West and this European country is the Islamic Republic's only official channel with its arch-foe--the United States of America.

Iran's top national security official on Monday also held talks acting head of Russia's security council about the package.

"The package is about the great questions of the world and the nuclear question could be the subject of discussion," Jalili said after talks with Russia's Valentin Sobolev.

"Our approach could be a good basis for negotiations between the influential powers of the world," he said.

The package appears to emphasize what Iran sees as its growing influence in the region and can play as a mediator in global conflicts.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, called the package "a comprehensive plan" addressed to the Group 5+1.

"Iran's package of proposals is not addressed to one specific country. It is a comprehensive plan with broad proposals.

The spirit of the plan is that Iran is prepared to cooperate with all its capacity to resolve the remaining issues," Aghazadeh told a joint news conference with Sobolev.

Sobolev also said Russia was ready to examine Iranian proposals to end a deadlock over Tehran's nuclear program.

Head of Iranian Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi stressed that the package would maintain Iran's enrichment right.

Some diplomats in Europe claimed that Iran had earlier proposed turning its Natanz enrichment complex into a multilateral operation to counter pressures imposed on the Islamic Republic over its nuclear drive and that this might be among Iran's proposals.

It's a fact that the Islamic Republic will not bow to pressure or step back from its rights. However, by presenting the package Iran is showing greater transparency and goodwill to end the nuclear issue in a diplomatic manner.



Arab States Urged to Avoid Distorting History



Gholamali Haddad Adel

Majlis Speaker Gholamali Haddad Adel on Wednesday urged regional Arab states to avoid distorting history by trying to forge another name for the Persian Gulf.

"History would not change by distorting the name of Persian Gulf," Haddad told reporters while commenting on a recent "illogical move" by the United Arab Emirates to distort the name of this strategic waterway, IRNA reported.

The Persian Gulf is the world's third biggest gulf, after Mexican and Hudson gulfs.

Iran's High Council of Cultural Revolution has designated April 30 as the National Persian Gulf Day, to safeguard the cultural and historical

identity of the Iranian nation.

April 30 also marks the anniversary of the Portuguese forces' withdrawal from the Strait of Hormuz in 1622.

"The Persian Gulf is always Persian Gulf for Iranians," he stressed, adding that changing the name of the strategic waterway "is against historical evidence and illogical".

Haddad reiterated Tehran's policy to establish good neighborly relations with its Arab neighbors.

On April 29, hundreds of Iranian university students held a peaceful protest rally in front of the United Arab Emirates' Embassy in Tehran, showing their anger against the recent move by several Arab states to distort the name of the Persian Gulf.

Saudi Security Ties to Benefit Region

Interior Minister Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi said on Tuesday that Tehran-Riyadh security cooperation would benefit the two nations as well as all the regional states.

In a meeting with Saudi Deputy Minister of State Ahmed bin Mohamed Al-Salem, he expressed his satisfaction with the current visit to Tehran of the Saudi delegation, IRNA reported.

He added that signing a joint security agreement would open a new chapter in the two countries' security cooperation.

Pour-Mohammadi expressed hope that bilateral talks being held between the visiting Saudi delegation and the Iranian officials would be fruitful.

As to Tehran-Riyadh cooperation at the regional and international levels, he said the two countries' leaders are determined to further

promote bilateral ties.

The Saudi official conveyed the warm greetings of his country's King Abdullah to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"Iran-Saudi joint security committee meeting plays a key role in strengthening security cooperation between the two states and the entire region," he said.

He called for implementing ratifications of the security meeting.

The second meeting of Iran-Saudi Arabia joint security committee started in Tehran Monday evening.

Al-Salem, heading a delegation, is attending the meeting.

The two parties will study ways of implementing the security cooperation pact signed in the first meeting of the joint security committee held in Riyadh in October 2001.

Sabotage in Shiraz Blast Not Proved

Intelligence Minister Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Wednesday no reason, sign or witness has been found to prove the possibility of sabotage in the Shiraz mosque blast on April 12.

Twelve people died and more than 190 were wounded in an explosion at Rahpouyan-e Vessel Culture Center that is part of Seyyed-ush-Shohada Mosque located in a residential area of Shiraz on April 12, IRNA reported.

The powerful explosion took place at around 21:00 local time (1730 GMT) on April 12 during an evening prayer sermon by a prominent local cleric.

Ejei told reporters that the police and security officials have yet to clarify the cause of the explosion.

On Ilam incidents related to the runoff election on April 25, the minister said it was not an anti-security



issue, but a domestic event that is being followed up by the Interior Ministry.

"No anti-security event occurred on the day of the Majlis runoff election," he said.

The runoff election was held in 43 constituencies, including, Tehran, Rey, Shemiranat and Islamshahr, where the candidates could not obtain 25 percent of votes in the first round.



Western NPT Violations a Threat

Iran is critical of the Non-Proliferation Treaty's violations by certain western countries, calling them a real threat to international stability and security. Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Alireza Moayyeri, on Wednesday echoed Iranian concern over the negligence of disarmament by nuclear states during an address to a two-week gathering on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Treaty, IRNA reported.

The conference opened on Tuesday in Geneva. Criticizing the repeated violations of NPT regulations by certain western powers, the ambassador said, according to Article six of the treaty, western countries were committed to uphold disarmament.

"They have not only failed to fulfill their commitments, but they are also involved in stockpiling arsenals more than before," he said.

He stressed that there was no logical or legal justification for nuclear weapons while the US, Britain and France have based their military doctrines on nuclear weapons.

The Iranian envoy said Washington is the leading violator of NPT regulations by developing its own nuclear arsenal and providing Israel with technical and engineering expertise to go ahead with its weapons program.

Moayyeri called on the Geneva meeting to follow up the cases of NPT violations by the nuclear states as its main agenda.

IRGC Vows To Defend Airspace

Iran's Air Force is fully prepared and strong enough to pull down enemies from the country's skies, a senior Air Force official said on Wednesday.

Addressing the IRGC's air force unit, Brigadier General Hossein Salami also said, "The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps has become a reliable, invincible and impenetrable body to defend the country against any threats," IRNA reported.

The US officials may believe that they possess the "military empire" with more than half of the world's military power, "but they have failed to fulfill their goals anywhere," he said.

However, Brigadier General Salami stressed that Iranians should not forget that "the enemy is too close to us".

Nation Will...

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"This crisis has forced the UN to declare a global alert over food shortages, but foreign radios imply that the current price hikes and inflation in the country have resulted from the carelessness of Iranian officials which, of course, is not true," he said.

"Thanks to Almighty God, the problems in Iran are much less than those in other countries."

Ayatollah Khamenei said enemies are trying to magnify Iranian problems and this will be resolved through a timely and precise economic plan.

"Current problems such as drought require the collective effort of people and officials," he said.