



Ahmadinejad Tells Elham: Be Patient, Tolerant

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on Government Spokesman Gholamhossein Elham to exercise patience, toleration and reliance on God.

The president wrote a letter on Saturday in response to Elham's earlier missive expressing his preparedness to quit governmental posts, IRNA reported.

In addition to his post as government spokesman, Elham is serving as justice minister, head of the Headquarters Against Smuggling of Goods and Foreign Exchange as well as the Guardians Council.

The chief executive said, "I am aware that you have devoted yourself to serving the public wholeheartedly and consider you as a caring brother who constantly wants to serve the society."

Another part of the letter read: "Once again I call your attention to the pledge we have made to be patient and tolerant in serving the people and pursuing the lofty goals of the Islamic Revolution. It is obvious that the more we move forward, the pressure exerted by some will increase and you must be tolerant. You should remember how our illustrious men suffered even after the victory of the Islamic Revolution from the moves made by the opponents of justice and honesty."

Ahmadinejad also stressed that people have shown on several occasions that they appreciate the efforts of officials who serve them.

"People have shown that they forget the minor mistakes of devoted officials and support them. So brother, rely on God and exercise toleration," he concluded.



Gholamhossein Elham

Help Offered To WHO



Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (r) in talks with the new WHO representative to Iran, Ambrogio Manenti, on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Iran is ready to share its experiences with the World Health Organization to help upgrade the region's health standards.

Mottaki made the remark in a meeting on Saturday with the new WHO representative to Iran, Ambrogio Manenti, IRNA reported.

Mottaki highlighted the significant role of WHO in improving the status of health in the world and briefed the envoy on Iran's capabilities to this end.

"Both the Middle East and Central Asia need more attention and better healthcare

due to political issues and shortcomings," he said.

Mottaki proposed that WHO make use of religious beliefs in its campaign against drug addiction and diseases.

"Such a policy can help ease WHO's responsibilities and increase its efficiency in dealing with the issue," he said.

The WHO envoy, for his part, called Iran a big country with an ancient civilization and advanced healthcare system.

"Iran is regarded the most developed country in the region in terms of healthcare. Iran's proposal can be put on WHO's agenda," he said.

Majlis to Discuss...

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"Drinking water will be available to all people of the country, be it in villages or urban areas," he said. Furthermore, Mohammad Dehqan, a member of Majlis Committee for Judiciary's Investigation, said the report on the judiciary's performance has been presented to the Majlis Presiding Board and will be read in Majlis next week.

Asked what his committee would do if the presiding board refuses to allow the report to be read out in Majlis, Dehqan said, "In our talks with the board members, they have all asserted that they want to hear the report in Majlis. However, if the report is not read in Majlis, it will be made available to the print media."

In 2005, a majority of lawmakers voted for establishing a committee to investigate the judiciary's performance.

Blackwater Trial...

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An estimated 40 witnesses have so far been brought before the grand jury in Washington, including Blackwater security guards and company managers.

Iraqi witnesses also are expected to testify in coming months, according to people close to the case.

Perspective

Lebanon's Hot Summer

The sprawling camp, home to over 30,000 Palestinian refugees, became the scene of four months of battles between the Lebanese army and the extremist group, Fatah Al-Islam. At that time some covert elements sought to undermine Lebanese security and level the field for the domination in Beirut of pro-western factions.

Now it seems another major crisis is looming. In the coming days the usurper state will commemorate the 60th anniversary of its "founding". To this end Zionist leaders intend to paralyze Hezbollah on home turf. Israel has announced extensive programs for the May 13-15 ceremonies. George Bush, Britain's Gordon Brown and France's staunch pro-Israeli leader, Nicholas Sarkozy are among those who will join the celebrations.

It is obvious that any move that threatens the security of the ceremonies will be a fatal blow against Qods occupying regime. Thus, with assistance from its pals inside Lebanon, Israel masterminded the scenario of "exposing Hezbollah's telecommunications network" which have in place for years to force the resistance group to concentrate on internal problems and let the Israelis enjoy their anniversary ceremonies.

For now there is ample evidence that the anti-Syrian coalition known as March 14 alliance led by Saad Hariri, son of Rafik Hariri, the assassinated former prime minister of Lebanon, and Prime Minister Fouad Siniora, have started a dangerous game on the eve of the Israeli binge.

They claim Hezbollah set up surveillance cameras near Beirut airport to monitor the movements of anti-Syrian Lebanese politicians and foreign dignitaries. The two men openly backed by Washington and Paris had hoped to either deprive Hezbollah of its strategic telecommunication system or provoke the revolutionary group to start some sort of civil war.

But the Hezbollah leadership, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in particular, once again demonstrated their credentials in crisis management. They showed with clarity of purpose that ill wishers of their country cannot achieve their ugly aims including disarming the popular resistance and hurling Lebanon into a fresh bout of civil strife.

The pro-western March 14 enclave has been forced to accept defeat in light of the strong and pragmatic stance of Hezbollah.

One question making the rounds in major political corridors is whether the retreat of the embattled and seemingly powerless government will save Lebanon from another hot summer? Only time will tell.

British Marines Near Border

About 60 British marines have been seen patrolling Iraq's border with Iran near the Shalamcheh border crossing, an informed source said.

"Close to 60 British marines were seen patrolling near the Iranian border of Shalamcheh in groups of 20, carrying light weapons and monitoring the condition of the sealed border crossing," the source told PressTV on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi government officially closed the Shalamcheh border crossing in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province on April 24.

These British units are deployed along the Iraqi border with Iran, using Apache helicopters, the source said.

Over 300 American and British forces are currently stationed some 10 km from the Iranian border of Shalamcheh in the Iraqi town of Tanumeh.

Members of the terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization have reportedly been sighted among the marines in American uniforms.



Bahrain Stresses Friendly Relations

Bahraini State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nizar Al-Baharna said Iran poses no threat to any regional state, including Bahrain.

Talking to IRNA on Saturday, Baharna said Iran and Bahrain are two friendly and neighboring states enjoying longstanding relations.

He suggested that the regional states would focus on confidence building, adding that the move should take place through dialogue and negotiations.

On the critical situation in Iraq, he said the Iraqi unrest has jeopardized peace, stability and security of the entire region.

The Bahraini state minister called for settlement of disputes among regional countries through diplomacy.

"Manama is making great efforts to help establish peace and tranquility throughout the region," he said.



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