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### speeches

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#### Nuclear Diplomacy: The Choice for Iran's Leaders

**Remarks by Ambassador Gregory L. Schulte  
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna and the  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
at Education City, Doha, Qatar**

**November 12, 2006**

Three years after the International Atomic Energy Agency learned of Iran's covert nuclear program, Iran's leaders are still refusing to answer troubling questions.

In report after report, Mohammed ElBaradei describes Iran's refusal to give access to information, facilities, and individuals necessary for the IAEA to do its job.

Mr. ElBaradei just briefed the UN General Assembly that he remains unable to provide assurance that Iran's program is peaceful.

More and more countries conclude it is not.

Governments and experts are asking basic questions.

If this is a peaceful program, why did Iran hide it for 18 years?

If this is a peaceful program, why does Iran not cooperate fully with the IAEA?

If this is a peaceful program, why does it have unexplained ties to Iran's military, its missile program, and A.Q. Kahn's illicit market in nuclear weapons technology?

If this is a peaceful program, why does Iran have a document on fabricating components for nuclear weapons? And why did Iranian authorities, rather than providing this document to IAEA inspectors, confiscate and destroy their notes on its contents?

In addition to violating their IAEA obligations, Iran's leaders are now violating UN Security Council requirements to suspend threatening activities.

Because the international community lacks confidence in Iran's program, the Security Council mandated suspension of dangerous activities related to uranium enrichment and plutonium production.

Neither are necessary for civil nuclear power. Both are necessary to build nuclear weapons.

Suspension is important for two reasons:

- to avoid the risk of nuclear proliferation, and

- for the world to become confident that Iran's leaders want to negotiate seriously, rather than buy time to pursue their nuclear ambitions.

Our goal is a diplomatic solution. To succeed, the Security Council must back international diplomacy with international sanctions.

Our goal is to secure a diplomatic solution, one in which the leaders in Tehran give up their pursuit of nuclear weapons and fully meet their international obligations.

With that goal in mind, Europe, Russia, China, and the United States have made a serious and far-reaching offer to Iran's leadership, to negotiate an agreement with major political, economic, and security benefits for the Islamic Republic.

Such an agreement would require Iran's leaders to cooperate with the international community and to take credible steps to assure the world that their nuclear program is solely peaceful.

Unfortunately, Iran's leaders have not chosen to abide by Security Council requirements and create the conditions for negotiations.

This means that the time has now come for international diplomacy to be backed by international sanctions.

Sanctions are not the end of diplomacy. They are an integral part of diplomacy.

Iran's leaders must understand that their choices have consequences and that their best choice remains a course of cooperation and negotiation.

The Security Council is now drafting a sanctions resolution. While the details are still being discussed, the strategic goal is agreed:

- to impede Iran's nuclear and missile efforts; and
- to reinforce the choice for Iran's leadership.

We hope that Iran's leaders will make the right choice: foregoing today's path of defiant actions and rhetoric for a new path to peaceful relations and peaceful benefit from nuclear technology.

The United States wants a very different relationship with Iran.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly in September, President Bush addressed the people of Iran. He said,

"The United States respects you;  
we respect your country.

We admire your rich history,  
your vibrant culture, and  
your many contributions to civilization.

You deserve an opportunity  
to determine your own future,  
an economy that rewards  
your intelligence and your talents,  
and a society that allows you to fulfill  
your tremendous potential.

The greatest obstacle to this future  
is that your rulers have chosen

to deny you liberty and  
to use your nation's resources  
to fund terrorism, and fuel extremism,  
and pursue nuclear weapons."

President Bush went on to say:  
"We look to the day  
when you can live in freedom  
-- and America and Iran can be  
good friends and close partners  
in the cause of peace."

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