THE IRAN-U.S. NUCLEAR STANDOFF

World’s Nuclear Arsenal and Power Plants

- China 400
- France 350
- India 60+?
- Israel 200+?
- Pakistan 24–48
- Russian ~10,000
- United Kingdom ~185
- United States ~10,656

35–40 have capability to develop nuclear weapons

Nuclear power plants: 441 in 30 countries

Iran’s Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

- Expected completion sometime in 2007
- U.S.-Israel opposed this power plant
- Israel bombed Iraq’s Osirak in 1981
- U.S. does not want Iran enriching uranium (Natanz)
- Reactor grade requires 3–4% U-235 (legal)
- Weapons grade requires 90% U-235 (U.S. concern)

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

- 187 states are parties to the NPT
- Cuba, Israel, India, Pakistan not parties to NPT
- NPT Article IV, 1: Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the
Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes …

NPT Article IV, 2: All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also cooperate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, …

Iran’s Rationale and Concerns

World oil peak in 5 to 25 years, revenue decreasing
Iran wants independent capability, technology spin-offs
U.S. wanted British to give nuclear tech to Shah

Iran’s Response to U.S. Concerns

Signed Additional Protocol to Safeguards Agreement
Safeguards Agreement not in force in 40 states
Allowed inspections before ratification by Parliament
Offered to forego nuclear fuel cycle if sanctions lifted
Offered package of objective guarantees developed by an international panel of experts

What Nuclear Expert’s Say

IAEA: Iran in compliance with NPT (Prather, 08/29/06)
CIA: “no Iranian nuclear weapons drive” (AFP, 11/19/06)
Negroponte: capability 10-15 years (CSM, 01/13/07)
Traces of weapons grade uranium found at Natanz blamed on contaminated imported equipment
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists: Best way to know what Iran is doing is to offer it help

U.S. Violations of the NPT

Not helping Iran w. peaceful uses of nuclear
Not moving to eliminate its nuclear weapons
Developing new generation of nuclear weapons
U.S.-India nuclear pact (03/02/06)
NPT Article X allows states to withdraw from NPT—3 months notice, jeopardy to “supreme interests”

Current Iran-U.S. (Israel) Standoff

Israel threatens attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities
Ahmadinejad cannot order attack on Israel—power in Supreme Leader, Guardian Council, Expediency Council
Fatwa against nuclear weapons, Iran wants peace
UN passed Resolution 1737 under Article 41, Chapter 7
U.S. says no option excluded—“one percent doctrine”
Diplomacy “a smokescreen”—objective regime change
Non-military enforcement mandatory (late February?)
U.S. is engaged in an undeclared war with Iran

More Info at The Wisdom Fund—www.twf.org

Iran has an inalienable right to nuclear energy
U.S., Britain’s “total hypocrisy” on nuclear energy
Iran: The next war, Israeli connection
Iran rejects UN sanctions, Israel plans nuclear strike