

# UN wants Tokyo, Seoul to mend ties



Mr Kofi Annan

**Associated Press**

TOKYO, May 17: UN secretary-general Mr Kofi Annan urged Japan and South Korea today to make moves to improve their strained relations, and called for an "open mind" in talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

Mr Annan, who was in South Korea for talks with President Roh Moo-hyun earlier this week, said after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Tokyo that the two countries were ready to bolster ties. Mr Roh has refused to meet Mr Koizumi since canceling a planned summit in December due to a visit to Yasukuni shrine, which

honours Japan's 2.5 million war-dead, including executed World War II war criminals.

Mr Annan and Mr Koizumi also discussed Iran's nuclear programme, and he said the Security Council was working to put together a common strategy. The US believes that Iran's nuclear power programme is a cover for an atomic weapons effort.

"A package is being prepared which will be put on the table when the negotiations resume," he said. "And I hope it does resume and that all parties will go to the table with an open mind." It was not clear, however, whether Mr Annan was referring to negotiations that will also include Vietnam and Thailand.

Japan is eager to expand the permanent seats on the Security Council to provide it with a spot, but its proposals so far have failed to garner enough support in the General Assembly.

Mr Annan said he and Mr Koizumi discussed the subject, but he provided no details. Deteriorating ties between Japan and South Korea have caused worry in the region, compounding concerns over the sharp decline in relations between Japan and China.

18 MAY 2006

# Iran seriously considering nuke offer, says Annan

UN  
REUTERS

GENEVA, JUNE 22

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday that Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki had told him Tehran was seriously considering an offer of incentives aimed at defusing the nuclear programme row.

The US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany have offered Iran incentives, including access to advanced civilian nuclear technology, but say Iran must first suspend enrichment before any discussions can start. "They are considering the package very, very seriously," Annan told a news conference in Geneva.

US President George W Bush said on Wednesday in Vienna that Iran was taking too long to respond to the offer of incentives to halt nuclear work and urged it to reply within weeks.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Tehran would respond to the proposal by August 22, but the six powers want Iran to reply within weeks.

Annan said that the question of timing came up in his talks with Mottaki, but no specific dates were mentioned.

Annan said he did not think that any answer would come from the Iranians before the G8 group of major industrial powers meets in St Petersburg July 15-17.

INITIAL EVIDENCE  
CLEAN EVIDENCE

# UNSC members inching closer to resolution on Iran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK, MAY 31

THE five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council appear to be inching towards a tough resolution seeking an end to Iran's uranium enrichment programme with the Bush administration signaling it is prepared for a major compromise.

Russia and China have so far opposed attempts by the US to make the 15-member council adopt resolution containing threats under Chapter VII of the charter which allows enforcement of the decision.

When the US attacked Iraq, it had sought to justify the action by arguing that the Chapter VII resolution authorised

it to take action. Fearing replay of the scenario in case of Iran, Russia has expressed its vehement opposition.

But the New York Times reported today that Washington is now prepared to invoke only Article 41 of the Chapter VII and not the whole chapter. The article does not make any reference to use of force.

Diplomats said they were not certain that Moscow would be agreeable but there is a strong possibility that it would support the change. Earlier the Bush administration had rejected suggestions that the resolution invoke only Article 41.

The Article 41 says the UNSC may decide what measures, not involving the use of

armed force, are to be employed to give effect to its decisions and it may call upon UN members to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is scheduled to meet with top diplomats of Russia, China and European nations in Vienna to discuss the resolution with a view get it through the UNSC this week.

She is also expected to discuss the package of incentives and disincentives that Europeans are putting together to entice Iran to abandon its uranium enrichment programme.

01 JUN 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

# Iran N-issue headed for UNSC

*Tehran rejects US terms for talks; not to give up N-programme*

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
Washington, June 1

PRESIDENT GEORGE W Bush on Thursday said the standoff over Iran's suspected nuclear programme was headed for the UN Security Council if Tehran continued to refuse to halt uranium enrichment.

"We'll see whether or not that is the firm position of their government", Bush said after a meeting with his Cabinet at the White House. "If they continue to be obstinate, if they continue to say to the world, we really don't care what your opinion is, then the world is going to act in concert".

With Russian and Chinese support crucial to crafting a deal for Iran that also includes a threat of sanctions, Bush said he "got a positive response" from Russian President Vladimir Putin during a conversation on Tuesday. "We expect Russia to participate in the United Nations Security Council", Bush said.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Hu Jintao has welcomed the US stance on resolving the Iran nuclear issue through diplomatic means and expressed willingness to join negotiations to peacefully resolve the issue.

It is China's position that the international non-proliferation system should be maintained and the Iran nuclear issue be resolved in a peaceful way through diplomatic means and talks, Hu said during a telephone conversation with Bush.



**AFP**  
Iran foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki at a Press conference in Tehran on Thursday.

"China is ready to keep contact and coordination with the United States and play a constructive role in resuming the negotiations on the Iran nuclear issue at an early date", Hu was quoted by a statement of the Chinese foreign ministry.

Earlier in the day, Iranian foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki rebutted a US proposal that Tehran must suspend uranium enrichment as a condition of such talks, state-run television reported. A foreign ministry spokesman echoed the positive signals for talks while a prominent hard-liner dismissed the US proposal as "blackmail".

and urged the government to reject it. "Iran welcomes dialogue under just conditions but (we) won't give up our (nuclear) rights", the television quoted Mottaki as saying in Tehran.

Mottaki's comments were the first by an Iranian official on the US's proposal that it was willing to participate in direct talks with Iran on its nuclear program, providing that Tehran quits enriching uranium. "We won't negotiate about Iranian's nuclear rights but we are prepared, within a defined just framework and without any discrimination, to hold a dialogue about common concerns".

## World powers meet in Vienna

WORLD POWERS converged on Vienna for Thursday talks on how to resolve the Iran nuclear crisis, strengthened by a US decision to join in direct talks with Tehran if it agrees to suspend uranium enrichment.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington and international partners were close to a deal that would offer Iran economic incentives if it gave up nuclear activities that could produce a bomb and penalties if it did not.

"We are agreed with our European partners on the essential elements of a package containing both benefits, if Iran makes the right choice and costs if it does not", she said before departing for Vienna.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said there was much to discuss. "I think the announcement the American government made is an important contribution", she said.

"The international community is united in wanting to make progress, in seeing this as a real opportunity for Iran and the international community to come to a negotiated solution", Beckett said.

**AP, Vienna**

# UN powers aim to seal Iran package after US offer

9-10  
2/6

**Vienna:** World powers converged on Thursday to finalise incentives for Iran to halt nuclear activity that could help make bombs, an overture given new political muscle by a US offer to talk to Teheran, Western leaders said.

Washington said it would join multilateral dialogue with Iran if it stopped enriching uranium—a policy switch that a senior US official said had won over Russia and China to pursuing sanctions against Teheran if it spurned the sweeteners.

He said “if they (Iran) do not do so, there is also agreement that therefore we would have to proceed through the (UN) Security Council with a resolution and over time, depending on the Iranian response, move toward sanctions.”

“What they’ve agreed is, if Iran does not accept this offer of negotiations, or accepts and then does not negotiate in good faith, we will return to the Security Council, we will get a resolution,” the official told reporters in Washington.

Early on Thursday, Iran’s official news agency IRNA brushed off Rice’s gesture as “a propaganda move” but it cited no source and it was not clear if this was Iran’s formal response.

Teheran says its nuclear fuel work is a non-negotiable civilian programme to generate electricity, not a covert quest for bombs as the West suspects. But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, an-

Foreign ministers from the five veto-holding, permanent powers on the Security Council along with Germany and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana will aim to wrap up weeks of difficult negotiations on a viable

supply of atomic fuel so Iran would not need to enrich uranium itself.

Sanctions could entail visa bans and a freeze on assets of senior Iranian officials before resorting to trade measures.

Rice reiterated that a last-resort military option, should talks or sanctions prove futile, remained on the table.

But Washington, angling for firm Russian support, had accepted language in a proposed council resolution to underpin the offer that would rule out an immediate threat of military strikes on Teheran, US and European officials said.

Western leaders had wanted the resolution to designate Iran a “threat to international peace and security,” a legal pathway to use of force applied to topple Saddam Hussein.

But Russia and China see no such danger and oppose any automatic penalty trigger until diplomatic opportunities have been exhausted. The Russian and Chinese envoys to the UN welcomed the US talks offer. But Beijing’s envoy urged the US not to load the proposal with preconditions.

The EU3, which have led talks with Iran, said Teheran would face more credible pressure to compromise. REUTERS



nouncing the US shift on Wednesday, said, “It’s time to know whether Iran is serious about negotiation or not.”

She said the move beefed up a “carrots and sticks” package for Iran whose essentials had been agreed with Britain, France and Germany ahead of Thursday’s gathering in Vienna and would be discussed further to pin down a consensus with Russia and China.

strategy towards Iran.

US officials said Russia and China had come around to broad support for the “carrots and sticks” package drafted by the ‘EU3’—France, Germany and Britain—but details on how to balance the offer remained to be ironed out on Thursday.

Diplomats said the incentives were expected to encompass a light-water nuclear reactor and an assured foreign

# Iran must seize the opportunity: IAEA

13/6 110-13  
Teheran rules out negotiations on enrichment

**VIENNA:** The chief of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Monday that Iran was still resisting inquiries into its nuclear programme, but welcomed the big powers' offer of major incentives to Teheran to resolve the crisis.

"It [is] clear that the agency has not made much progress in resolving outstanding verification issues," Mohammed ElBaradei said in a speech opening a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) governing board. The U.S. ambassador to the IAEA, Gregory Schulte, called on Iran to halt uranium enrichment and grab an "enormous diplomatic opportunity". Iran should "take advantage of the enormous diplomatic opportunity that lays in front of the Islamic Republic," he said.

The U.S. and other IAEA board members expressed the hope Iran would decide "to refrain from further enrichment-related and reprocessing activities," he told reporters.

But Iran appeared resolute.

"Iran has achieved nuclear fuel technology. This is our absolute right, and we will not nego-

tiating our absolute right with anyone," Iranian Government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham told reporters in Teheran.

Suspending uranium enrichment is a pre-condition for talks on benefits being offered by the six world powers including the

U.S. Iran says it has a mandate to enrich uranium under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because it only seeks the fuel for power generation.

The U.S. says it believes Iran is hiding work to develop atomic weapons. — Reuters, AFP

## "Oil prices may come down"

**NEW YORK:** Crude oil futures were little changed on Monday. While geopolitical tensions underpin high world oil prices, there was also a measure of relief that Iran had accepted some parts of a Western offer aimed at getting the country to halt its nuclear programme, even as it rejected others.

Light sweet crude for July delivery rose 7 cents to \$71.70 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, where gasoline futures fell 1.5 cent to \$2.1379 a gallon. July Brent crude on London's ICE Futures

edged up 1 cent to \$70.49 per barrel.

Traders also took note of comments from BP PLC's chief executive Lord Browne, who said in an interview with Germany weekly *Der Spiegel* that oil prices could drop to about \$40 a barrel in the medium term as new supplies are found, and might fall even further in the long term.

"It is very likely that, in the medium term, prices will stand at about \$40 on average," he was quoted as saying. "In the very long run, even \$25 to \$30 are possible." — AP

THE HINDU

# The U.N.'s moment of truth

Those who really care about reform should come together and form a new coalition — one that bridges the artificial, destructive divide between North and South.

Kofi Annan

A MINOR storm broke out last week when my deputy, Mark Malloch Brown, made a speech suggesting that the United States should engage more fully and wholeheartedly with other members of the United Nations to bring about reform. That is absolutely right, but he and I believe the same message needs to be heard in many other countries besides the U.S.

The U.N. now faces a moment of truth. Last December, member states adopted a budget for the current "biennium" (2006-2007), but gave us in the Secretariat authority to spend only enough to carry us through the first six months. The main contributors to the budget, led by the U.S., insisted that this spending cap should be lifted only when there is significant progress on U.N. reform. We are now perilously near the deadline, and it is far from clear that enough reform to satisfy them has been achieved. Neither side has found a way of engaging with the other to agree on further reforms.

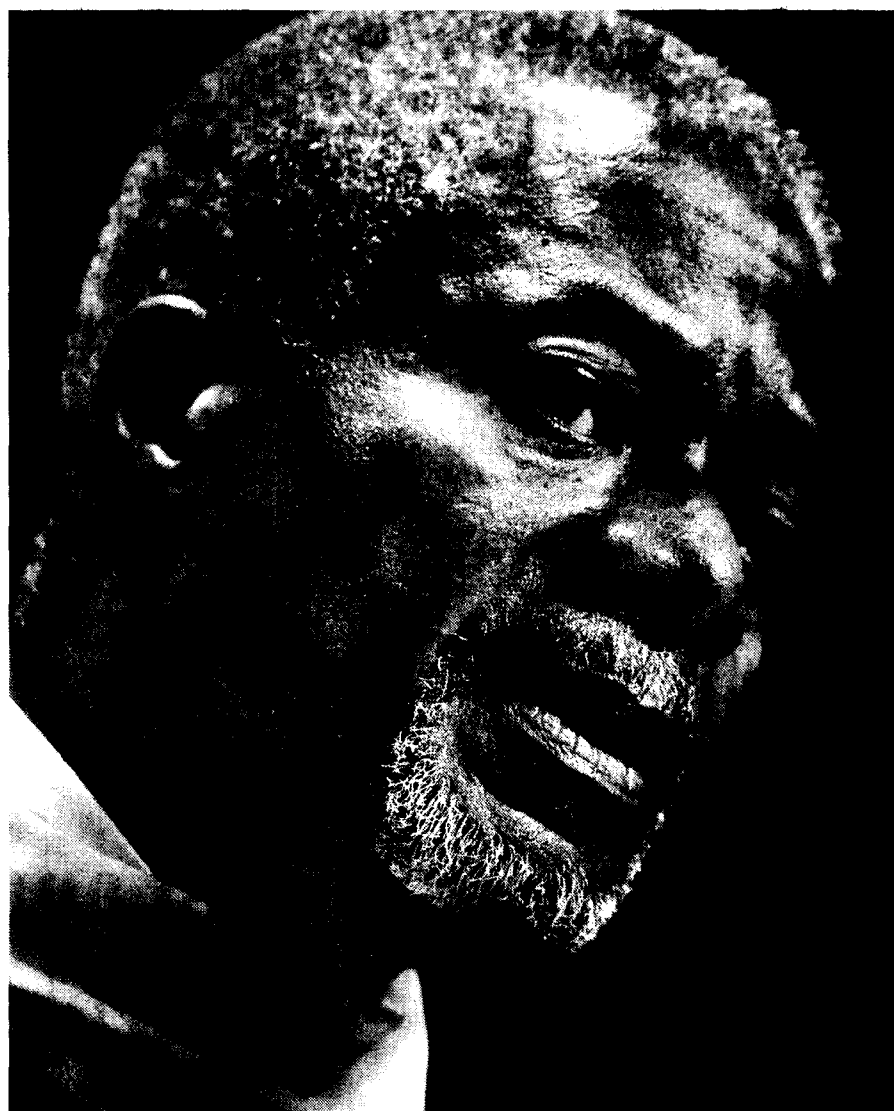
## Only political crises

Sir Brian Urquhart, the U.N.'s elder statesman, once said that there was never really a financial crisis at the U.N., only political crises. Brian is right. The U.S. is trying to use the power of the purse to force through badly needed management reforms, and these tactics have provoked a reaction among developing countries.

Most of these are well aware of the need to reform — not least because it is in those countries that the U.N. provides many vital services — from peacekeeping and peacebuilding through emergency relief to strengthening human rights, helping organise elections, and fighting infectious disease. That means they are the ones who have most to gain from a U.N. that is well-managed and really gives value for money. Their quarrel is much less with the detail of proposed reforms than with what they see as the overwhelming influence of a few rich countries, in an organisation supposedly "based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members."

That was what I meant in London last January, when I referred to the "feeling of frustration and exclusion that prompts many states to exercise the only power they do have: the power to block other reforms, such as better management — since some see even this as an attempt by the big boys to grab yet more power for themselves."

In the long run this means that, as British Prime Minister Tony Blair recognised in a



United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan ... for change by consensus.

— PHOTO: AFP

speech in Washington two weeks ago, the whole U.N. structure has to be reformed, including the Security Council. And so even these current reforms are only a small down payment on what must follow. Public policy is simply getting more global. From terrorism to poverty, drugs and crime, disease to trade, no states can settle matters alone.

But even while we wait for the political vision to catch up with the scale of today's challenges, we have vital work to do right now — programmes which have been mandated by member states and which provide essential services to people in acute danger

or need. However important the debate on reform, we must not let that work be stalled.

It's in the interest of all member states to keep the U.N. running, and to adapt it to the specific work that they are asking it to do. And that means that both sides in the current argument need to turn down their rhetoric and engage with each other in serious negotiations, to work out a sensible compromise now as a basis for more fundamental change later.

It is not just the composition of the Security Council that is stuck in the mid 20th century. Both the management and the atti-

tudes of many governments to the Organisation are caught in the same time warp. Neither has fully adjusted to the new reality of a U.N. which no longer simply holds conferences and writes reports, but is managing complex, multi-billion dollar operations to help keep peace and combat poverty and humanitarian disasters. As a result, we do not have the institutions that we need to confront this century's global challenges. It is vital that we escape from this bind.

The blueprint for reform that I put forward last year was very clear about this. It reminded us all that the U.N. is founded on three legs — development, collective security, and human rights. Each of the three strengthens the other two, but is also dependent on them. And like any good chair they need a fourth: major management reform.

The U.N. has to help its members advance on all three fronts at once. That is why it needs not only a Security Council but also an effective Human Rights Council, and why the Economic and Social Council must be transformed into a true development chamber that allows development and finance ministers to pursue progress and track results in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, the world's effort to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

Some reforms have been achieved. Both the new Human Rights Council and the new Peacebuilding Commission will meet for the first time next week. All member states have accepted their responsibility to protect people threatened by genocide and other comparable crimes. We have in place a much improved emergency relief fund, a democracy fund, an ethics office, and a much tougher system for protecting whistleblowers. Now we need better accountability and oversight arrangements, a stronger procurement system, more financial flexibility, and better rules for recruiting and managing our staff.

Set against the scale of the tasks we have to undertake, these are not such ambitious demands. Surely governments can agree on how to make these reforms happen without bringing the whole organisation to a halt. It is time for those who really care about reform to come together and form a new coalition — one that bridges the artificial, destructive divide between North and South, and brings together all those who are willing to work together because they share the vision of a U.N. that really works, for the benefit of all the world's peoples. — Courtesy: UNIC New Delhi.

(The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations.)

3 A JAN 06

THE HINDU

# Iran to ignore UNSC demands

AGENCIES

TEHRAN, APRIL 26

IRAN will ignore any UN Security Council demands to halt its disputed nuclear programme, hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed today.

"If international institutions respect our legitimate rights, we will respect their decisions. However, we will not regard these decisions as valid if they are intended to deny us our rights," he was quoted as saying by the official news agency IRNA.

"We hope they will fulfil their duty lawfully so that the Islamic republic will not need to reconsider its relations with them," he added.

He reiterated his view that Iran could reconsider its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its cooperation with the IAEA if it felt it was not benefiting from abiding by international protocols.

"We have asked them (IAEA), and we are waiting for an answer: what have they given us in reward for doing our duty? What sort of help have they given us?" he told reporters.

"We hope they fulfil their duties and make it unnecessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran to reconsider its relations with them," he said.

"They should know that they cannot impose any decisions upon us by using the name of the IAEA and UNSC because illegal decisions do not become legitimate just by using the name of the agency and UNSC," Ahmadinejad said.



## Olmert cautions Iran

WASHINGTON: Israeli PM Ehud Olmert has called Ahmadinejad a dictator and said that Israel was able to defend itself.

"We need to make sure no one has the capability or the power to commit destruction against us," he said on Tuesday in what could be a veiled warning of potential Israeli military action against Iran. "The Jewish people and the very existence of Israel" are Iran's targets...and we don't see enough of a response from the world," he said.

Olmert said he takes the threats by Ahmadinejad to erase Israel from the map "very seriously". "We do not take it lightly," Olmert said, speaking from Jerusalem. "We are powerful and able to defend ourselves." —AP

"Our scientists have mastered this technology with their own brains, their own might and their own hands," he said.

27 APR 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS



## Balancing act

IT'S DOUBTFUL if the UN resolution on Iran, which the US and its European allies have tabled, would be of much help in ending Tehran's nuclear defiance any time soon. The document calls on Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment programme, or face 'further action'. Although the draft doesn't specify what 'action' may be taken, the implications are clear enough. It could subsequently allow for sanctions, or even military options as a last resort. The move launches what looks like a drawn-out diplomatic process designed to win approval for tough measures from veto-holding permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC), Russia and China, who have so far rejected any move towards sanctioning.

With the military option off the table for the moment, Washington's intention is evidently to push for sanctions — if not by the UNSC then by a 'coalition of the willing' outside the UN. This may be based on the calculation that harsh economic sanctions would hit Iran's poorest the hardest and prompt people to react as

they did in the Seventies, leading to protests in the streets. But despite their potential to considerably damage the Iranian economy, sanctions may also be counterproductive and serve to play into the hands of Iran's hardliners. As recent events prove, the Bush administration's assumption that calibrated pressure would yield Iranian acquiescence has not worked. In fact, Tehran's belligerent regime clearly depends so much on defiance for its political survival that the more intense the pressure, the more intransigent Iran's response is likely to be.

So it'd be a better bet for Washington to devise a strategy that would restrain Iran's nuclear ambitions without appearing to dent its national pride. But while easing sanctions, releasing Iranian assets frozen since the revolution and, at some point, establishing diplomatic relations are ideas that need to be considered, Tehran must also walk the talk and show us what it means when it says there are 'a multitude of possibilities for finding a peaceful resolution'.

06 MAY 2006

THE HINDU

NO SANCTIONS: CHINA, RUSSIA

# P5 can't agree on Iran

SF 2/26  
1075  
UN 2/26

**Associated Press**

UNHQ, May 9: Key Security Council foreign ministers failed to reach agreement on a UN resolution to curb Iran's nuclear programme, with China and Russia still demanding that Britain, France and the USA eliminate any reference to possible future sanctions or military action against Teheran.

Ministers from the five veto-wielding council nations met privately with their German counterpart and the European Union foreign policy chief for two hours and then with top aides for a very late night dinner yesterday that focussed on long-term strategy toward Iran and the disputed resolution.

Their political directors met again today morning, trying to bridge the gap over the best way to send a message to Iran that its pursuit of uranium enrichment must be suspended to allay international concerns that Teheran is secretly pursuing nuclear weapons rather than a peaceful nuclear energy program to produce electricity, as it claims.

Britain and France, which are sponsoring the resolution with strong backing

from the USA, insist that the resolution must be under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to make its demand that Teheran suspend uranium enrichment legally binding. Chapter 7 sets out actions to respond to threats to international peace and security ranging from breaking diplomatic ties to economic sanctions and military action.

"We've come closer in our positions but there is still no agreement," Germany's foreign minister Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. "China and Russia have not yet accepted the possibility of a general reference to a Chapter 7 resolution, but it's not something they have excluded at this point," he added.

UK's new foreign secretary, Ms Margaret Beckett, stressed that "it is not anybody's intention to take the course of military action, and that, I think, is simple and straightforward". "I think the clear issue is everybody believes that Iran should and must move into compliance with the views, the recommendations, the requirements' of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog," Ms Beckett said.

10 MAY 2006

THE STATESMAN

# China, Cuba, Russia in UN rights council

## Poor Rights Record Was No Deterrent To Winning Seats

**United Nations:** Cuba, Saudi Arabia, China and Russia won seats on the new UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday despite their poor human rights records but two rights abusers, Iran and Venezuela, were defeated.

Human rights groups said they were generally pleased with the 47 members elected to the council, which will replace the highly politicised Human Rights Commission. It was discredited in recent years because some countries with terrible rights records used their membership to protect one another from condemnation.

"The spoiler governments, the governments that have a history of trying to undermine the protection of human rights through their membership on the old commission are now a significantly reduced minority when it comes to the council," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "That doesn't guarantee the council will be a success but it is a step in the right direction."

Yvonne Terlingen, UN representative for Amnesty International, said, "We are fairly pleased that the members selected overall constitute



Chinese security personnel on duty outside the UN compound in Beijing, AP

a good basis to make a fresh start with creating a strong and effective human rights body."

"Some countries have been elected with weak human rights records, but they also are now committed to uphold the highest human rights standards," she said.

Under the rules for the new council, any UN member was eligible to run and 64 countries submitted their candidacies. Members needed to be elected by an absolute majority of the 191 UN states—96 members.

To ensure global representation,

Africa and Asia were given 13 seats each; Latin America and the Caribbean eight seats; Western nations, seven seats; and Eastern Europe, six seats.

Roth said Human Rights Watch would have preferred that Cuba, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan had not won seats because of their poor human rights record.

"The good news is two of the last deserving governments were not elected," he said. "Both Venezuela and Iran failed to make the cut. That is a step in the right direction."

Richard Grenell, spokesman for the US Mission to the United Nations, said Iran's defeat "just shows their lack of standing in the international community."

The United States opposed the establishment of the council, saying it did not go far enough to prevent rights abusers from winning seats, and the US decided against being a candidate. But US Ambassador John Bolton has said the United States will work with other member states "to make the council as strong and effective as it can be." AP

11 MAY 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# UN tells US to close secret prisons

**Geneva:** The US should close any secret "war on terror" detention facilities abroad and the Guantanamo Bay camp in Cuba, a UN report has said.

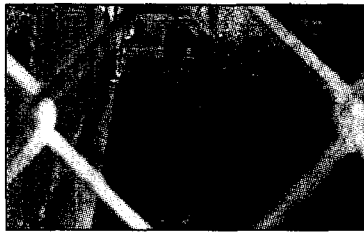
The UN Committee against Torture urged the US to ensure no one was detained in any secret facility. The report followed the first US appearance before the committee since 9/11. During the hearing in early May, the US neither confirmed or denied the existence of secret prisons.

The US has been holding hundreds of terror suspects arrested since 9/11 at facilities in Iraq, Afghanistan and Cuba. There are also reports of CIA-run secret facilities in other countries.

The committee told the US to provide more information on secret detention facilities. "The state party should investigate and disclose the existence of any such facilities and the authority under which they have been established and the manner in which detainees are treated," the 11-page report said.

It also called on the US to end detentions at the Guantanamo Bay camp and close it. Detaining people in such conditions was a violation of the UN Convention against Torture, it said.

The committee also urged the US to act against ill-treatment of detainees, calling for "immediate meas-



Terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay

ures to eradicate all forms of torture and ill-treatment of detainees by its military or civilian personnel, in any territory under its jurisdiction".

It called for an end to interrogation techniques it said constituted torture, such as the use of dogs to scare detainees. The recommendations are not binding but the BBC's Imogen Foulkes says the committee's conclusions will not make comfortable reading for the US, with the assertion that secret camps do constitute torture.

The US has maintained it is engaged in a long term war on terror and that some aspects of the convention on torture may not apply.

But the UN committee rejected this, saying the total ban on torture applies in time of peace, war or armed conflict and anyone violating the convention should be prosecuted. REUTERS

20 MAY 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# UN set to fault Iran on nuclear programme

11-14

**Vienna:** UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei was expected to report on Friday that Iran has failed to meet a United Nations deadline to stop enriching uranium, opening the door to possible international sanctions against a defiant Teheran.

Iran has strongly rejected suspending enrichment, and says it is pushing ahead with expanding its ability to make what can be nuclear fuel but also the raw material for atom bombs.

Diplomats say that is enough for ElBaradei to report that Iran has not met the 30-day deadline set by the UN Security Council, running out on Friday, even if some

Western experts are sceptical about Teheran's claimed success in mastering the difficult process of enriching uranium with centrifuges.

The run-up to the report being issued by ElBaradei's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been marked by strong rhetoric from Iran and calls by the West for UN action.

Hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed on Thursday that Iran "will not bow to injustice and pressure," and was quoted on Friday by media there as saying that mastering "peaceful nuclear energy" could make it into a superpower.

"The bullies of the world

should know that nuclear energy is a national demand, and thank god our nation is a nuclear nation today," the official news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the Security Council "has to act" in response to Iran's failure to allay the West's fears that the Islamic republic is using its allegedly peaceful programme to secretly develop nuclear weapons.

"I would certainly hope the Security Council is prepared to take some action," she said on the sidelines of a NATO meeting in Bulgaria. Her German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier,

also in Sofia, said the international community had to put on a united front. "The reactions from Teheran are cause for concern," he said.

"All NATO states agree this is the only way to make the consequences of its self-isolation sufficiently clear to Iran."

Iran announced on April 11 that it had enriched uranium using a 164-centrifuge cascade, or series of the machines, to 3.5%, enough for nuclear fuel but not for a weapon. It is working on upping the centrifuges to 3,000 with an ultimate goal of running over 50,000 centrifuges—capable of producing enough uranium to make several atom bombs a year. AFP

11-14  
29/11

## Tehran rejects demand

# UN to Iran: stop N-work

**United Nations, March 30**  
(Reuters): The UN Security Council demanded yesterday that Iran suspend uranium enrichment efforts that the West suspects are part of a secret nuclear weapons programme.

But Iran remained defiant, saying that it was not seeking an atomic bomb and regardless of assurances, the US and others would find new reasons to fault Tehran.

"Threats do not work with Iran. Iran is allergic to pressure," Iran's UN ambassador, Javad Zarif, said. "Iran's commitment to the nonproliferation regime, to nonproliferation, is categorical."

The statement, which needed the approval of all 15 council members, was read at a public meeting after the five permanent veto-holding council powers agreed on a text following three weeks of arduous negotiations.

The US, Britain and France made significant concessions to Russia and China, which were anxious to avoid language that might later be used to press for sanctions or

military action against Iran.

Still, Russia's UN ambassador, Andrei Denisov, said: "For the time being, we have suspicions — very strong ones, but suspicions — on intentions. On intentions, we also have some evidence but it is only intentions."

The council called on Iran to comply with resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency board, including a suspension of "enrichment-related activities".

Iran restarted work at its uranium enrichment plant in Natanz earlier this year, but insists its aim is to develop nuclear energy rather than weapons. The council also asked Mohamed ElBaradei, the IAEA's director-general, to report back in 30 days on Iran's progress.

### Sanction threat

British foreign secretary Jack Straw said today sanctions could follow if Iran remained defiant and refused to halt its uranium enrichment programme as demanded by the UN Council.

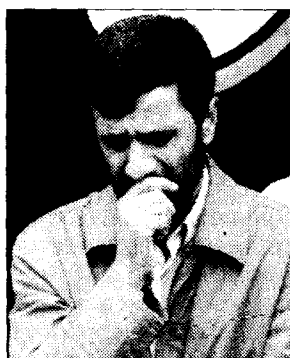
# UNSC members discuss watered down draft on Iran

DHARAM SHOURIE

UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 29

AMBASSADORS of five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council held a round of meetings to discuss a watered down draft that calls on Iran to abandon uranium enrichment plans ahead of their ministers meet in Berlin tomorrow. The new draft proposed by Britain and France with the support of the US softens the language in earlier drafts that faced objections from Russia.

The ambassadors met three times yesterday before circulating the draft to the remaining 10 non-permanent members. The Council is expected to have closed-door discussions tonight. Though London and Paris, backed by Washington, watered down the draft but it



**Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at a ceremony to commemorate the death anniversary of Prophet Muhammad in Tehran on Wednesday. AP**

retains the language which asks Tehran to stop its nuclear enrichment programme that can be used for both producing fuel for civilian power plants and for making nuclear weapons, diplomats said.

However, Moscow still seemed to be dissatisfied. Russia is also opposed to linking Iranian programme to international peace and security as it feels that the formulation could be used by a nation or group of nations to take punitive action against Tehran even if there no other resolution from the Council.

But western diplomats say that the Council's main purpose is to maintain peace and security. In their original draft, Britain and France had given 14 days to the IAEA to report back on Iranian compliance to the Council demand for ending its uranium enrichment programme.

But diplomats say to placate Russia, they are prepared to increase the time period from 14 to 30 days but Moscow's reaction was not available. —PTI

30 MAR 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

28  
23/3

# Big powers creep toward elusive deal on Iran at UN

EVELYN LEOPOLD

UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 28

UN SECURITY Council powers held out hope on Monday for agreement this week on a statement to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions, but a deal is still elusive before a forthcoming ministerial meeting.

"It is now three weeks since the IAEA board took this matter up and we are going to try and resolve it in the next day or so," US Ambassador John Bolton said. He spoke after another meeting with the other four permanent Council members—Britain, France, Russia and China—and after a briefing to the full

## ElBaradei on Iran

BERLIN: The head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, urged Iran to halt all uranium enrichment work to help revive collapsed nuclear talks between Tehran and the EU. His call for Iran to allay international concerns about its nuclear ambitions set the stage for a planned meeting in Berlin on Thursday of the foreign ministers of Germany, France, UK, US, Russia and China to try to break the deadlock on how to deal with Tehran. —Reuters

15-member Council.

On Thursday, the foreign ministers of the five Council powers and Germany are due

to meet in Berlin to hammer out strategy and try to break any remaining impasse on the statement.

"We are dealing with nervousness from some of the parties on what will happen next and uncertainties. Russia has particular concerns, including very high equities in Iran," a senior British official said in London.

Britain's UN Ambassador, Emyr Jones Parry said to the media "We need to agree on the text and if possible to have it ready for adoption. If we can finish it before Thursday, we will". But he cautioned that the five were only "edging forward". —Reuters

29 MAR 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS



# Bid to break Iran deadlock

## Britain, France call off consultations

**UNITED NATIONS:** Members of the U.N. Security Council sought to break a deadlock over Iran's suspect nuclear programme on Wednesday, after Britain and France abruptly called off consultations because they were no closer to a deal with Russia and China on how to pressure Teheran to stop enriching uranium, diplomats said.

Britain, France and the United States planned to spend much of Wednesday in bilateral talks with each other and Russia and China, going back over proposals for a Council statement. They could circulate a new text late in the day.

The decision to cancel the council discussion Tuesday reflected the failure of the United States and its European allies to get Russia and China on board during a meeting of high-level diplomats in New York the night before.

One council diplomat de-

scribed that meeting as a setback for British, French and American efforts to craft a tough council response to Iran, which the West believes is seeking nuclear weapons. Russia and China are firm in their belief that any Security Council action should be mild.

"We're trying to get back on track from where we were before last night's meetings," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were confidential. "The Russians and the Chinese came in guns ablazing." The U.S. and its European allies want the Security Council to approve a statement reiterating demands by the IAEA, that Iran suspend uranium enrichment, the process that can be used to generate nuclear power or make nuclear weapons. Iran insists that it is not making a nuclear bomb, a claim the United States disputes. — AP

23 MAR 2006

THE HINDU

# UNSC meet on Iran put off

Press Trust of India

UNHQ, March 22. — With no results to show despite two weeks of intense parleys on Iran nuclear crisis, a deadlocked UN Security Council has put off a formal closed door meeting to give more time to iron out differences over a tough Franco-British statement.

The meeting of all 15 members of the Council scheduled for late last night was put off by the "Permanent Five" as Russia, backed by China, was pitted against other veto-wielding powers—the USA, Britain and France — over the language of the text on Teheran's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions.

Britain and France had drafted a tough presidential statement which would express concern over Iranian nuclear programme, ask it to suspend uranium enrichment plans and call on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to report back to the Council within two weeks.

But Russia sees in it seeds of sanctions against

## US man charged

LOS ANGELES, March 22. — A computer technician was charged with attempting to export to Iran more than 100 pressure sensors that could be misused as components in explosive devices, US federal authorities said. Mohammad Fazeli, 27, pleaded not guilty to the three-count indictment charging him with conspiracy, making false statements and violating a US embargo prohibiting trade with Iran. — AP

Teheran and wants the Council to issue only a small statement reaffirming political support to the IAEA and let it handle the issue.

Amid signs of dejection in diplomats taking part in the negotiations, western diplomats insisted they were still hopeful that some common ground would be found. But Moscow made it clear that chances of its backing off from its stance were remote.

Russia would like the IAEA to continue to play main role in persuading Iran to give up its uranium enrichment programme but the USA and its western allies want to send a strong signal to Teheran.

THE STATESMAN



# P5 mulls increasing pressure on Iran

**United Nations:** The five permanent members of the UN Security Council ended a second round of talks on Friday on how to persuade Iran to suspend uranium enrichment works, but there was no sign they had agreed on a statement. The British and French UN ambassadors Emyr Jones Parry and Jean-Marc de la Sabliere said the consultation will continue with US, Russia and China on a statement on Iran's nuclear activities, an indication the five had not agreed on a text.

Most envoys expect the full 15-member council to issue a statement sometime next week in response to a report from the Vienna-based IAEA on Iran's nuclear activities. The report cleared the way for the council to take up for the first time Iran's nuclear program that US and others say is a cover for bomb-making.



"We talked about our objectives, how the UNSC can reinforce the role of the IAEA," said China's UN ambassador Wang Guangya after the meeting. UK and France distributed a text on Wednesday for a meeting of the five powers—the US, Britain,

France, Russia and China—to consider. It echoed demands of the IAEA governing board that Iran suspend all uranium-enrichment activities and answer outstanding questions about its atomic programs.

It would give "full support" to the IAEA and ask the UN nuclear watchdog for a report in a short time frame, that has not been agreed yet. UK at one point suggested 14 days but most envoys expect a longer timeline. "We didn't talk about dates," Wang told reporters when asked about a deadline.

But the next step is the difficult one. Normally a statement is followed by a resolution demanding Iran comply and hinting at consequences, which might lead to some low-level sanctions, like a travel or assets freeze. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said several

times this week the UNSC should not take the lead on the crisis. China is thought to agree.

A resolution in the UN Security Council needs a minimum of nine votes and no veto from any of its permanent members.

Lavrov told state television Rossiya on Friday that although the situation was critical, it "does not mean everybody now has to go to the UNSC. It means we all have to get together again to collectively find a new consensus regarding our strategy at the current stage".

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said, "I hope the parties will get back to the table, and Iran will take the necessary steps to cooperate with the atomic agency." He said Iran had to convince the international community "its ambition is peaceful use of energy". Reuters

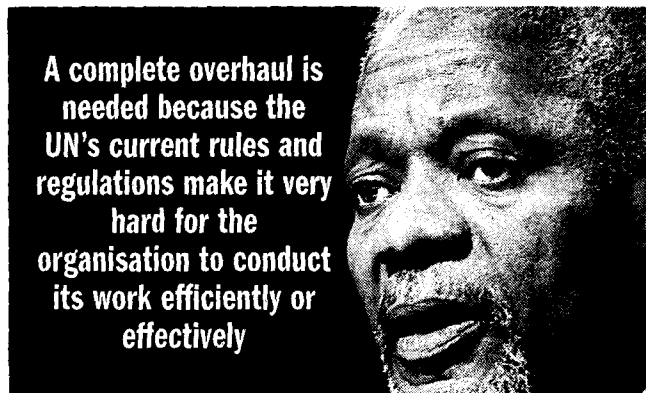
# UN chief spells out plans for radical reforms

**United Nations:** Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged UN member states on Tuesday to approve a radical overhaul of UN operations that would include a new 2,500-strong rapid reaction team to help millions of people around the world facing hunger, disease, violence and terrorism.

Since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, he said, the United Nations has been transformed from an organisation that primarily held conferences and meetings to a global body engaged in several countries in peacekeeping, humanitarian relief

tions into a new flexible team whose members could be deployed quickly in urgent peacekeeping and political missions. It would also allow a one-time staff buyout costing about \$100,000 per person, modernise the UN's information technology systems, and consider outsourcing translation, editing, printing, payroll, medical insurance and computer support services.

At a contentious and raucous meeting later with UN staff, Annan and senior UN officials were peppered with questions by distrustful staffers concerned about los-



**A complete overhaul is needed because the UN's current rules and regulations make it very hard for the organisation to conduct its work efficiently or effectively**

efforts, electoral assistance and human rights monitoring.

After decades of piecemeal reform that addressed symptoms more than causes, Annan said, "a radical overhaul" is needed because the UN's current rules and regulations "make it very hard for the organisation to conduct its work efficiently or effectively."

It is time for member states to invest in the UN so the organisation can be better organised, more transparent, and give "better value to the hundreds of millions of people throughout the world who, by no fault of their own, find themselves in need of its services," he said.

Senior UN officials said over the next few years the management reforms could cost about \$500 million, but the overhaul could eventually lead to savings of about the same amount.

Annan's proposed shake-up would create a mobile civil service and convert 2,500 short-term peacekeeping posi-

ing jobs, about managers filtering complaints, and about the United Nations outsourcing work to companies like Halliburton. The sharpest and most critical questions received loud applause.

The proposals in the report, entitled 'Investing in the United Nations', are a direct response to last year's investigation into the UN oil-for-food programme which concluded shoddy management was partly to blame for widespread corruption. It cited weaknesses in oversight, accountability, responsibility and structure.

The report proposes a number of improvements in the way the UN buys goods and services, an area that has seen widespread corruption and is currently the subject of several investigations.

Annan stressed the report is also an effort to transform the UN's post-World War II management structure and practices so the 191-member world body can deal with 21st century problems. AP

# Iran report headed for UNSC

ASSOCIATED Press  
Vienna, March 8

IRAN THREATENED the US with "harm and pain" on Wednesday for its role in hauling Tehran before the UN Security Council over its nuclear program and for plans to push fellow council members to impose tough measures against the Islamic republic.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei also said the US should negotiate directly with Iran if negotiations reach the stage of focusing on security guarantees to Tehran in exchange for concessions on its nuclear program.

The end of Wednesday's meeting of the 35-member board of the International Atomic Energy Agency set the path for Security Council action. ElBaradei said his staff would send his report on Iran's nuclear program to the council by Thursday.

The US and its European allies said Iran's nuclear intransigence left the world no choice. The Se-



AP  
Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, at the agency's board meet in Vienna on Wednesday.

curity Council could impose economic and political sanctions on Iran. Wednesday's meeting was in effect the last step before the Security Council begins considering Iran's nuclear activities and international fears they could be misused to make weapons. It be-

gan with both Iran and the nations opposing its enrichment plans sticking to their positions.

"The US has the power to cause harm and pain," said Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's ambassador to the IAEA. "But the US is also susceptible to harm and pain. So if

that is the path that the US wishes to choose, let the ball roll."

He did not elaborate but suggested Iran was awaiting additional American moves.

But diplomats accredited to the meeting and in contact with the Iranians said the statement could be a veiled threat to use oil as an economic weapon.

Iran is the second-largest producer within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), and a boycott could target Europe, China or India.

The White House dismissed the rhetoric out of Tehran. "I think that provocative statements and actions only further isolate Iran from the rest of the world," White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters travelling with President Bush to the Gulf Coast. "And the international community has spelled out to Iran what it needs to do."

John Bolton, America's ambassador to the United Nations, said Iran's comments showed how much of a menace it was. "Their

threats show why leaving a country like that with a nuclear weapon is so dangerous," he said.

At an Opec meeting in Vienna, Iran petroleum minister Sayed Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh deflected questions about Iran's threat, saying: "Ask the one who said that."

He later sought to ease worries, telling reporters: "So far there's no reason to reduce exports. Iran has no intention whatsoever of reducing its oil exports."

On Tuesday, US defence secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld accused Iran of dispatching elements of its Revolutionary Guard to stir trouble inside Iraq.

Iran's statement was unusually harsh, reflecting Tehran's frustration at failing to deflect the threat of Security Council action in the coming weeks.

Iran also attacked "warmongers in Washington" for what it said was an unjust accusation that Tehran's nuclear intentions were mainly for military use. It also suggested America was vulnerable, despite its strength.

9/13 UN  
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THE HOUSE

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## UN watchdog meets on Iran in Security Council prelude

Advertisement

By Mark Heinrich  
Reuters  
Monday, March 6, 2006; 2:26 AM

VIENNA (Reuters) - The U.N. atomic watchdog's board of governors meets on Monday to weigh Iran's snub of calls to curb nuclear activity, opening the way to possible U.N. Security Council action over concerns Tehran covertly seeks atom bombs.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei will submit a report to the 35-nation meeting saying Iran has largely ignored a resolution demanding that it take steps to defuse a crisis of confidence in its nuclear program.

ElBaradei's report will be forwarded to the Security Council after the gathering as mandated by a board vote a month ago after three years of IAEA probes often parried by Tehran.

No new resolution was expected because the February motion, which at the insistence of Russia, China and developing states gave Iran a month to comply, was deemed enough for the Council to take up the issue.

ElBaradei will open the meeting with a speech at 0930 GMT.

John Bolton, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, warned Iran faced "tangible and painful

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/05/AR2006030500221\\_pf....](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/05/AR2006030500221_pf....) 3/6/2006

consequences" if it pushed ahead with uranium enrichment and Washington would use "all tools at our disposal" to neutralize Tehran's atomic project.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Monday warned the West that further pressure on Tehran would have consequences.

"If they exert political pressure on us, we will revise our decisions and change our behavior," the official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

"There is no need for them to create problems for themselves and for us. They should accept the Iranian nation's rights, then cooperation can be done," he added.

When the Council might act remains unclear. The timing could hinge on the course of talks between Russia and Iran on Moscow's offer to enrich uranium on Tehran's behalf to prevent siphoning of nuclear materials into secret bombmaking on Iranian soil.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator on Sunday repeated that its uranium-enrichment research drive was non-negotiable. He vowed Tehran would pursue industrial-scale nuclear fuel production if the Council tackles its case, potentially with sanctions.

Another Iranian official, deputy secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Javad Vaedi, repeatedly said in an interview with Reuters that Iran would not change its mind about its research and development activities.

"The research and development activities have started and it is irreversible," Vaedi said.

Tehran seemed to be counting on opposition to any sanctions from Russia and China, both with vetoes on the Council.

But nuclear scientists estimate Iran remains some years away from mastering technology to enrich enough uranium for bombs.

ElBaradei felt the board vote to alert the Council was premature and could aggravate tensions, agency sources say.

Western diplomats say the IAEA has been too tolerant of what they call Iranian playing for time in hopes of staying the Council's hand while it accelerates uranium-enrichment efforts.

Iran says its nuclear program is designed only to generate electricity for a growing economy. But Tehran obscured sensitive aspects of nuclear work from the IAEA for 18 years until 2003 and has publicly called for Israel's destruction.

#### INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

ElBaradei's report said Iran had disregarded the February resolution urging it to shelve all enrichment-related work and stop stonewalling IAEA inquiries to verify if the Islamic Republic's nuclear program is solely peaceful or not.

Instead, Iran is testing a cascade of 20 centrifuges, machines that convert uranium UF<sub>6</sub> gas into fuel for atomic power reactors or, if purified to high levels, weapons.



He said Iran aims to begin installing 3,000 centrifuges later this year in what it calls research and development that has nothing to do with industrial-scale fuel production, but which a suspicious West says could have no other motivation.

Iran has struggled to operate cascades -- or networks -- of the delicate centrifuges without breakdowns. But about 1,500 centrifuges running optimally could yield enough highly enriched uranium for one atomic bomb per year, experts say.

"The longer we wait to confront the threat Iran poses, the harder and more intractable it will become to solve," Bolton told the leading pro-Israel lobby group in the United States.

Trying to slow momentum toward Council intervention, Iran offered in talks with "EU3" foreign ministers on Friday to hold off industrial-scale fuel production for one to two years and restore short-notice IAEA inspections while continuing with enrichment R&D. The ministers countered by asking for a moratorium of around 10 years, which Iran rebuffed.

The Security Council's first step would probably be a presidential statement summoning Iran to heed IAEA resolutions.

The Security Council could also consider endowing the IAEA with more intrusive, short-notice inspection powers.

Trade sanctions seem a more distant prospect given broad international reluctance to isolate the world's No. 4 oil exporter and not least the resistance of Russia and China, both with heavy trade stakes in the Islamic Republic.

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# China wants Asian to get Annan job

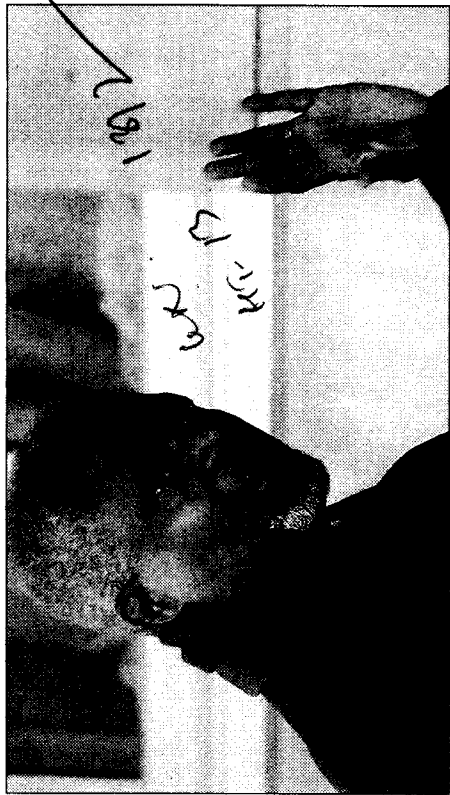
**WARREN Hoge**  
UNHQ, February 12

**CHOOSING** A new secretary-general may be the most telling action the United Nations takes in 2006, but the organisation is saddled with an ill-defined selection procedure that leaves the choice subject to 11-hour compromises, great power manoeuvres and regional rivalries.

The most discussed candidates, at least at the moment, include a Jordanian prince, a Nobel laureate from East Timor, two Eastern European presidents, Sweden's most accomplished diplomat, a former Sri Lankan ambassador to Washington, a Harvard-trained Thai lawyer, a Canadian judge, South Korea's foreign minister and a Turkish economist.

But if history is a guide, it is likely that none of them will emerge the winner and that the person who does is not being publicly discussed. Dag Hammarskjöld, the second secretary-general, did not even know he was a candidate when he was told on April 1, 1953, that he had been selected. He thought it was an April Fool's joke.

Kofi Annan's second five-year term ends on December 31, and there is particular interest in the contest to succeed him. There are no established qualifications for the post, no search committees, no in-



UN Secretary-general Kofi Annan on a trip to Afghanistan.

terviews, no background checks, no campaign rules. This year was long previewed as Asia's turn to fill the post. But the US and Britain do not agree, while China and Russia say they will insist on an Asian.

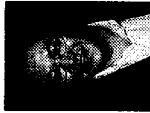
Three Asians are declared candidates: Thailand's deputy prime minister Surakiart Sathirathai; Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka, a former UN undersecretary-general; and Ban Ki Moon, the South Korean foreign minister. Also in the fray are East Timor's Peace Nobel winner Jose Ramos-Horta, former Turkish finance minister

Kemal Dervis, Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Alexander Kwasniewski, former Polish President, Prince Zeid al-Husseini of Jordan; Jan Eliasson of Sweden; and Canadian prosecutor Louise Arbour.

Richard C. Holbrooke, the former US ambassador to the UN, said he thought China had the influence to guarantee an Asian choice. "The fact that Asia has not had a secretary-general since U Thant is very important to China, and it will make damn sure it happens this time," he said.

**The New York Times**

## IN THE FRAY



**S Sathirathai**  
Thailand



**J Dhanapala**  
Sri Lanka



**Ban Ki Moon**  
South Korea



**Ramos-Horta**  
East Timor



**Kemal Dervis**  
Turkey



**Jan Eliasson**  
Sweden



**L Arbour**  
Canada



**Z al-Husseini**  
Jordan

# Tehran halts UN inspections, vows full enrichment plan

**MARK HEINRICH & FRANCOIS MURPHY**  
VIENNA | FEBRUARY 4

**I**RAN on Saturday said it would immediately halt UN inspections of its nuclear facilities and pursue full-scale enrichment. Within hours of the International Atomic Energy Agency's decision to report the Islamic Republic to the United Nations Security Council on its nuclear programme, Tehran said it wanted only nuclear power, not bombs and had sovereign right to make uranium fuel on its own soil.

The British envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the majority vote by its governing board, initiated by the United States, EU powers, Russia and China, would crank up pressure on Tehran.

"This sends a further strong message to the Islamic Republic of Iran, a message of concern...and a continuing lack of confidence in Iran's nuclear intentions," said Peter Jenkins, speaking on behalf of Germany, France and Britain.

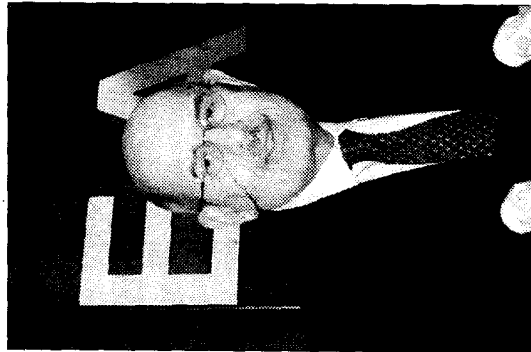
"The board has decided the bring (the issue) to the attention of the Security Council...so that after the board's next session (on March 6), the Security Council

day of haggling between EU powers and 15 developing states from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). An EU3 source said another controversy that held up action in Vienna was a dispute over a clause, backed by Egypt, saying that resolving the Iranian issue would contribute to the creation of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. The wording clearly alluded to Israel, the EU3 diplomat said, and proved unacceptable to Washington. Israel has never confirmed or denied it has a nuclear arsenal, but is believed to have about 200 atomic bombs.

IAEA Director-General Mohamed El Baradei is due to deliver a sweeping report on Iran's nuclear programme at a regular meeting of the agency's board on March 6.

Russia and China endorsed the resolution last week after winning guarantees from Washington and the EU3 that there would be no push for Security Council action before March, removing the biggest barrier to the resolution.

"Once this is on the agenda of the Security Council, we foresee a graduated approach to bring additional pressure on the leadership in Tehran to achieve a negotiated settlement," said US Ambassador Gregory Schulte on Friday. —Reuters



**IAEA's Director General El Baradei at Vienna's International Center on Saturday. AP**

can if necessary bring additional (pressure) to bear on Iran," he told reporters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel likened Iran's nuclear programme to the threat posed by the Nazis in the early 1930s, saying the world must act to stop Tehran making an atomic bomb. "We want, we must prevent Iran from developing its nuclear programme," Merkel said at the annual Munich security conference. The vote had been delayed by a

## 'Iran to pull out of voluntary implementation'

**REUTERS**  
VIENNA | FEBRUARY 4

THE deputy Iranian nuclear negotiator Javad Vaeedi on Saturday told reporters after the vote in Vienna: "After this decision, Iran has to immediately bring into force its Parliamentary law to suspend voluntary implementation of (the watchdog agency's) Additional Protocol (on snap inspections) and (pursue) commercial-scale enrichment which until today was under complete suspension."

Iran says there is no legal basis to report to the Security Council since no hard proof of a weapons programme was found. It says Washington's aim is to topple Iran's Islamic government.

Iranian negotiator Ali Larijani called on Germany, France and Britain to restart talks on a diplomatic solution. But they say Iran must first reverse its move to resume atomic research and small-scale enrichment of uranium, announced on January 9.

5 Feb 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS

# THE HINDU

Date:01/02/2006 URL:

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Front Page

## Iran issue for Security Council

Hasan Suroor

*'Quartet' provides time till March*

- *Iran suggests amendments to Russian proposal*
- *Further talks to be held in Moscow*
- *Russia, China against confrontation*

LONDON: All five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — Britain, the United States, France, China and Russia — and the European Union on Tuesday agreed to urge the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to "report" Iran to the U.N. on its controversial nuclear programme. The 35-member IAEA board meets in Vienna on Thursday.

But significantly they left the door open for a last-minute compromise, saying the Security Council should not take any action on the IAEA's recommendation till March. This is seen as a concession to Russia and China, which are opposed to a confrontationist approach and are for a negotiated solution.

During the "cooling off" period, efforts would be made to get Iran to agree to a compromise deal, under which its uranium enrichment programme could be carried out in Russia.

At a meeting with E.U. officials in Brussels on Monday, Iran was reported to have suggested amendments to the original Russian proposal. Further talks to fine-tune the deal are to be held between Iran and Russia in Moscow on February 16.

The decision to call upon the IAEA to take the issue to the Security Council was taken after a meeting here of the so-called "Quartet" group which, besides the five permanent members, includes Germany.

The talks, attended by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and other E.U. Foreign Ministers, started late on Monday and continued till early on Tuesday.

In a joint statement, the group said the IAEA ``should report to the Security Council its decision on the steps required of Iran, and should also report to the Security Council all IAEA reports and resolutions as adopted relating to this issue." It called for an "extensive period of confidence-building" by Iran after its recent actions such as the decision to break the U.N. seals on a nuclear facility, triggering protests in Western capitals.

There were serious differences behind the apparent public show of unity, it is understood. A French official was reported by the Associated Press as saying Russia and China were reluctant to go with the idea of referring Iran to the U.N. but were ``persuaded" to agree in order to present a ``united front."

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Teheran threatens to bar U.N. inspections

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# Left's Sorry Saturday: Iran goes to UN, AAI staff to work



VIKRAM SHARMA

The clean up begins: At New Delhi airport's domestic terminal, after the strike was called off

## A Q Khan link key to India's Vienna decision

SHISHIR GUPTA & PRANAB DHAL SAMANTA  
NEW DELHI | FEBRUARY 4

**G**OING along with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, including Russia and China and

concerned over Tehran's A Q Khan link, India today voted in favour of a resolution by the nuclear watchdog agency IAEA to report the Iran nuclear issue to the UNSC.

This cranks up pressure on Iran and could change the course of international diplomacy on its nuclear programme. The resolution, acknowledging concerns raised by Russia, China and India, also allows the Director General time until March to complete his report.

The resolution passed with 27 member countries voting in favour, five abstaining (Algeria, Belarus, Indonesia, Libya and South Africa) and three voting against (Cuba, Syria, Venezuela). It was amended to insert a paragraph that calls for "realising the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including its delivery." While both US and Israel objected to this, they gave in and it ensured a "yes" vote from key Arab countries Egypt and Yemen.

The key factors that went behind India's decision which was taken by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday night in consultation with Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and National Security Advisor M.K.Narayanan,

CONTINUED ON P2



IAEA chairman Yukiya Amano with Iranian Ambassador Ali Asgar Soltanieh on Saturday

**'Illegal, we will start enrichment, block UN'**

**VIENNA:** Tehran responded to the vote saying it would start enriching uranium fuel that can be used in bombs and would immediately halt UN inspections of its nuclear facilities and pursue full-scale enrichment.

It says it wants only nuclear power, not bombs, but claims a sovereign right to make uranium fuel on its own soil.

## Face-saver: letter from Govt that no airport jobs lost

ANANDA MAJUMDAR  
NEW DELHI | FEBRUARY 4

**T**HE four-day strike by the AAI employee unions was called off today after the Left asked the Centre for a written "assurance" which Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel agreed to on the condition that he would word the letter.

His letter said the government would set up a tripartite committee comprising represen-

tatives from the AAI employees union, the AAI and Civil Aviation Ministry to "look into the issues and proposals of modernizing airports by the AAI and employee issues including their job security". But, it was silent on the demand to consider the AAI proposal for Delhi and Mumbai.

Until yesterday, the demand was for a tripartite committee, including union representatives, to look into the modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports.

This, however, was turned down by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh when he met the employees.

CONTINUED ON P2

**Businessman held, police say he's Mirwaiz Farooq's**

3-5 FEB 2006

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## U.N. Nuclear Agency Reports Iran to Security Council

Move Signals Growing Unease About Nation's Nuclear Program

By John Ward Anderson and Glenn Kessler  
Washington Post Foreign Service  
Saturday, February 4, 2006; 4:00 PM

VIENNA, Feb. 4 -- The United Nations nuclear agency reported Iran to the U.N. Security Council on Saturday, signaling growing worldwide unease about the nature and intent of Iran's nuclear program, and concern that it might be military.

Iran responded Saturday by announcing that it would resume "commercial-scale uranium enrichment" and halt snap checks of its nuclear facilities by U.N. inspectors.

The 27-3 decision to report Iran to the highest U.N. body -- a diplomatic victory for the United States and Europe, and a blow to Iran's prestige -- came after months of intense wrangling among the 35 board members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the organization that monitors nuclear activities around the world.

In Washington, Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns called the vote "a powerful message of condemnation" and a "clear rebuke" of Iran.

Russia and China, both of which have strong economic ties to Tehran, joined the United States and European countries in an increasingly unified campaign to step up pressure on Iran to stop its research into uranium enrichment and cooperate more fully with IAEA inspectors. Only Syria, Cuba and Venezuela voted against the measure. Five countries -- Algeria, Belarus, Indonesia, Libya and South Africa -- abstained.

The referral to the Council signifies "a continuing lack of confidence in Iran's nuclear intentions," said British Ambassador Peter Jenkins. "Board members simply cannot understand why Iran is so determined to press on with its [uranium] enrichment program."


"A very important part of this board meeting is the fact that the European Union, the United States, Russia and China stood together in sending this message," said U.S. Ambassador Greg Schulte. "The authorities in Tehran, rather than threatening the world, should listen to the world and take the steps necessary to start regaining its confidence."

In forwarding the matter to the Security Council, the board's resolution cited "Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply" with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the "absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes resulting from the history of concealment." It demanded that Iran "reestablish full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and processing activities, including research and development."

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Under an agreement reached Monday between the five permanent members of the Security Council and Germany, the council will not take any action on Iran for at least a month, giving Tehran a grace period to change its tactics, stop its enrichment activities and cooperate more fully with IAEA inspectors.

Javad Vaidi, deputy secretary of Iran's National Security Council, said the board's vote was "politically motivated" and "not based on any legal or technical grounds." He said Iran had no choice now but to resume uranium enrichment and stop voluntarily cooperating with international inspectors, under a law passed by Iran's parliament last year mandating such retaliation if Iran were reported to the U.N. Security Council.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad subsequently ordered Iran's Atomic Energy Organization to end snap inspections by IAEA officials starting Sunday.

"All of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities will continue within the framework of the IAEA and based on the NPT and the agency's safeguards," he said in a letter to the head of the Iranian organization, Reuters news agency reported. However, Ahmadinejad added, "from Feb. 5, Iran will suspend its voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol and its other cooperation beyond it." He referred to an agreement Iran signed in 2003 to allow snap inspections of its nuclear facilities after admitting it had carried out secret work for 18 years.

Vaidi told Iranian state television that the IAEA vote effectively killed a proposal for resolving the dispute by having Russia carry out uranium enrichment on Iran's behalf, and he said Iran would resume enrichment activities at its Natanz plant in Isfahan province.

"Commercial-scale uranium enrichment will be resumed in Natanz in accordance with the law passed by the parliament," Vaidi said, according to the Associated Press.

Burns, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, told reporters in a conference call Saturday that the Iranian government faces tough decisions in the coming month.

"I cannot say we are filled with hope the Iranians will do the right thing," he said.

Burns said that under an agreement reached in London this week with other permanent members of the Security Council, the United States will not press to bring up the Iranian issue this month, when the United States chairs the council. But he said five demands made of Iran in today's resolution -- including suspending enrichment activities and granting inspectors enhanced access to its facilities -- were the minimum needed to avoid a Security Council debate in March.

"Iran is going to have to meet those conditions and show it has taken a fundamentally different course," Burns said. "We are going to have to see a change of heart by Iran."

Noting Iran's threats to stop cooperating, British Ambassador Jenkins said, "We urge Iran to reconsider." In the month ahead, "we hope Iran will take this opportunity to begin rebuilding international confidence," he said.

The United States and Europe say Iran's ultimate aim is to build nuclear weapons; Iran says it is interested only in developing peaceful nuclear energy, framing the issue as a sovereign right.

Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and its chief nuclear negotiator, recently said that the country's decision in January to resume uranium enrichment activities after a



voluntary, two-year suspension was "non-negotiable." It was that decision that triggered this week's IAEA's board meeting.

Going beyond the legislation to stop snap IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities, some Iranian officials have threatened to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty or raise oil prices if the IAEA forwarded their case to New York. Political analysts also warn of Iran's ability to foment problems in neighboring Iraq.

It is unclear what action, if any, the Security Council might take. Both Russia and China were reluctant to report Iran to the body and have expressed strong opposition to any significant punitive measures. China's ambassador to the United Nations told the Associated Press on Friday that his country would never support sanctions against Iran as a "matter of principle."

U.S. and European diplomats have said that they envision a "graduated" diplomatic approach to slowly build pressure on Iran, and that sanctions currently are not being considered. Nonetheless, Iran reportedly has been withdrawing money from European banks and stockpiling critical materials that could be difficult to get if an embargo or sanctions were imposed.

Anticipating the IAEA vote, Iranian President Ahmadinejad accused nuclear powers of trying to impose "scientific apartheid" and said they were ruining the reputation of the IAEA.

At a news conference Friday, the hard-line leader said a few nuclear powers were trying to "dictate their policies . . . from a domineering position, assuming that the Middle Ages' relations are still valid. But they had better wake up from that long sleep, because otherwise the severe blow of the world nations on their faces would wake them up."

In a direct appeal to non-aligned countries that account for 16 of the 35 seats on the board, Ahmadinejad said, "The hegemonic powers assume if they would manage to block Iran's path, they would also succeed in blocking the other nations' path."

Former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who heads Iran's powerful Guardian Council, delivered a separate warning during Friday prayers at Tehran University, the marquee podium for the conservative clerics who hold ultimate power in Iran.

"We have acquired some knowledge, and we intend to utilize it to improve our life and that of others," Rafsanjani said, emphasizing Iran's right to develop nuclear power to generate energy. "No matter where a progress in knowledge is achieved, it will benefit mankind. However, should they treat us in this manner, then the problems will take another shape."

Last year, Iran's conservative parliament passed a bill requiring the government to resume industrial-scale uranium enrichment if the IAEA pushed the issue to the Security Council. However, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, holds ultimate authority in Iran, and he has guided Iran's nuclear policy through the Supreme National Security Council, chaired by Larijani.

As signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran has the right to develop nuclear technology and to enrich uranium, which can be used for the production of energy or, if highly enriched, to manufacture atomic bombs. But the country became enmeshed in controversy in 2002 after Iranian dissidents disclosed that the government had concealed its nuclear programs for almost two decades. Iran suspended the most controversial parts of its activities, and European diplomats agreed not to pursue Security Council action while they conducted intensive negotiations to ensure that Iran's program was

and would remain strictly peaceful.

The negotiations floundered in August when Iran resumed uranium conversion, and again in January when it launched uranium enrichment activities, prompting the Europeans to declare their negotiations at an impasse and to begin a drive, which U.S. officials say was long overdue, to report Iran to the Security Council.

In recent months, international inspectors have found some documents in Iran that were related to bomb-making, but no evidence of a bomb-making program. They complain, however, that Iran has not provided the information or access to people, documents and facilities to make a solid determination one way or the other.

Recent provocative comments from Ahmadinejad -- including questioning the Holocaust, saying Israel should be "wiped off the map" and offering to transfer nuclear know-how to other Islamic countries -- increased concern about Iran's intentions and raised the pressure for the IAEA board to demand tougher confidence-building measures.

Several factors contributed to the IAEA board's lopsided vote, including the agreement earlier this week between the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China -- the five permanent members of the Security Council -- to give Iran a one-month grace period to adopt a more conciliatory approach.

The final resolution removed any reference to Iran's "non-compliance" with its nuclear treaty obligations and the article of the Non-Proliferation Treaty that it has violated. While that softened the resolution on its face, U.S. officials felt that it did not really matter because the document explicitly forwards a board resolution from last September that found Iran in violation of the NPT.

In an effort to win backing from 16 members of the Non-Aligned Movement, a group dating from the Cold War, the resolution included a paragraph "recognizing that a solution to the Iranian issue would contribute to global non-proliferation efforts and realizing the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery." The language significantly softened the movement's demand for a reference to creating a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East, which the United States saw as a slap at Israel.

The resolution also is ambiguous about whether the IAEA board must act again after the one-month grace period in order to officially request Security Council action. The United States believes the resolution places the entire Iran issue on the council's table. But other countries -- including many from the Non-Aligned Movement -- hold the view that the resolution only informed the Security Council of the Iran problem, and that the IAEA board must vote again in another month if it wants the council to take action.

The confusion allowed everybody to interpret the issue as they saw fit for Saturday's vote, but creates a potential problem down the road.

*Kessler reported from Washington. Correspondent Karl Vick contributed to this report from Istanbul.*

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**NUKE CRISIS** ■ EU hopes to yield the maximum number of "yes" votes possible

# IAEA may report Iran to UNSC

MARK HEINRICH  
VIENNA, FEBRUARY 3

**D**RIVEN by rare consensus between Western powers and Russia and China, the UN nuclear watchdog looked set on Friday to report Iran to the UN Security Council over fears it may be after atomic bombs, Western diplomats said.

Moscow and Beijing endorsed an EU-sponsored resolution to put the Council on notice about Iran so long as Tehran was given a reprieve at least until March to cooperate fully with UN probes before action, possibly including sanctions, could ensue.

Diplomats said the deal by permanent Council powers Russia, China, Britain, France and the US plus Germany aimed to win over wary developing states on the IAEA board, except for a few hardline foes of Washington.



**Foreign Minister from China Li Zhaoxing greets his Finnish counterpart Erkki Tuomioja, Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana on Friday at the Foreign Ministry in Vienna. AP photo**

message," said an EU diplomat, referring to the Security Council quintet.

Developing nations were negotiating for less pro-active resolution text, diplomats said. But "no" votes looked likely only from US adversaries Venezuela, Syria and Cuba while it was possible India, South Africa and Indonesia would abstain to signal they did not want their right to nuclear technology potentially restricted.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said the meeting was to prod Iran to resolve years of suspicion about its unclear goals before he makes a report to the next regular session of the Vienna-based board on March 6. This would allow time for Russia and Iran to work on details of Moscow's offer to purify uranium for Tehran, a joint venture aimed at preventing diversion of nuclear fuel to bomb-making. Negotiations on the compromise proposal are set for February 16. —Reuters

Thursday's opening session of the IAEA's 35-nation board adjourned after a few hours for backdoor negotiations which EU leaders hoped would yield the maximum number of "yes" votes possible. Analysts said that after the

board reconvenes on Friday, a majority of 25 to 30 will approve the resolution. "On paper, we should be able to go for adoption of the resolution later on Friday. We are aiming for a wide board consensus thanks to the strong P-5

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INDIAN EXPRESS



# World powers will refer Iran to UNSC

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**London:** Two days ahead of the crucial International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting to discuss Iran's controversial nuclear programme, key powers, in a surprise move, have agreed to refer the issue to the UN Security Council but decided to put off any action by the world body until March in a compromise with Russia and China who favoured giving more time to Teheran.

British foreign secretary Jack Straw announced the decision here on Tuesday after a meeting of the five permanent Council members—US, Russia, Britain, China and France—plus Germany after talks with Iran earlier in the day failed to produce a breakthrough.

Foreign ministers of the six powers met on Monday night to co-ordinate their position ahead of an emergency board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday. If the board agrees to refer it to the Security Council, Iran may face sanctions. But Straw said the foreign ministers decided the Council would take no action until March, after it has received a formal report on Iran from the IAEA.

The timetable represents a compromise. While Europeans and the US wanted Iran to be referred to the Security Council as soon as possible, Russia and China argued for more time. Iran is accused by US and EU of aiming to produce nuclear weapons but Teheran insists its nuclear programme is for civilian energy use only. The foreign ministers' statement

called for "an extensive period of confidence-building" by Teheran, following its recent decision to break IAEA seals on its nuclear facilities.

The IAEA's two-day emergency board meeting will start on Thursday in Vienna, which will see the possible referral of Iran to the Security Council. On February 16, Russia and Iran will resume talks on Moscow's proposed compromise regarding the issue. IAEA is to report on



Iranian compliance in March. During last night's talks, Russia, a key trading partner of Iran, had resisted any immediate move for sanctions against Teheran.

As a result, Moscow won a concession, reflected in the joint statement that said the Security Council should "await the IAEA director general's report to the March meeting of the IAEA board before deciding to take action."

US President George W. Bush said, "To the (Iranian) government, our message is that if you want to be a part of the family of nations, give up your nuclear weapons ambitions." Agencies

# NUKE PROGRAMME I Russia warns Iran it could lose Moscow's support Security Council discusses Iran

MARK HEINRICH  
LONDON, JANUARY 16

**S**ENIOR officials from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany held talks in London on Monday regarding Iran's resumption of controversial nuclear activities.

Representatives of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States were expected to discuss a date for an emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors, which could refer Iran to the UN Security Council.

A British foreign office spokeswoman refused to provide details about the meeting, which was taking place at the level of political directors, saying only that it was to discuss "next steps" regarding Iran.

Iran's resumption of research that could be used for either civilian atomic energy or bombs has sparked a flurry of western diplomacy in pursuit of a vote by the UN nuclear watchdog to refer Iran to the Council for possible sanctions.

Moscow, with a \$1 billion stake building Iran's first atomic reactor, and Beijing, reliant on Iranian oil for its burgeoning economy, have so far blocked a consensus



**Merkel arrived in Moscow on Monday where she hopes to persuade Putin to join the EU and US in ratcheting up diplomatic pressure on Iran, German officials said. Reuters**

suspended the fuel research it resumed last week. China, however, said resorting to the Security Council might "complicate the issue," citing Iran's threat to hit back by halting snap UN inspections of its atomic plants.

The views of Russia and China on an IAEA vote against Iran are crucial as both are veto-wielding permanent members of the Council, along with the US, Britain and France.

Diplomats said the London meeting of permanent Council members and Germany was aimed at reaching a consensus before an emergency IAEA board meeting the West wants next month.

IAEA Chief Mohamed El-Baradei was quoted by *Newsweek* magazine that it was not impossible Iran had a secret nuclear arms programme distinct from activities known to his agency.

"If they have the nuclear material and they have a parallel weaponisation programme along the way, they are really not very far—a few months—from a weapon," he told *Newsweek*.

Asked whether Iran was bombing time to build a bomb, he replied: "That's why I said we are coming to the litmus test in the next few weeks." *Reuters*

**US may use force as 'last resort'**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 16

THE US may have to use force as its last resort to prevent Iran from going the full nuclear route, senior lawmakers from both Republican and Democratic parties have said.

"That is the last option. Everything else has to be exhausted. But to say under no circumstances would we exercise a military option, that would be crazy," said Republican Senator John McCain.

McCain who is seen as one of the presidential hopefuls for 2008 called the nuclear impasse "the most grave situation that we have faced since the end of the Cold War," stressing that Washington "must go to the UN now for sanctions. If the Russians and the Chinese, for reasons that would be abominable, do not join us then we will have to go with the (states that are) willing."

Democratic Senator Evan Bayh said there are elements of Iran's nuclear programme, which, if attacked, "would delay its development."

## Diplomacy best bet to stop nuke programme

■ **CAIRO:** A member of the board of governors of the UN nuclear agency, said on Monday that dialogue was the best way to deal with Iran's nuclear programme.

■ **MADRID:** Iran should not be allowed nuclear capability because it could be the first step towards extremist groups getting their hands on atomic weapons, Israeli President Moshe Katsav told Spain's ABC daily on Monday.

■ **MOSCOW:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel met President Vladimir Putin on Monday for talks in which she was expected to press him to support EU and US diplomatic pressure on Iran over its nuclear programme.

■ **LONDON:** It is up to Iran to reassure the international community that it really is not pursuing the development of nuclear weapons, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Monday. Speaking at a security conference in London, Straw underlined the danger of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists.

for referral within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors. But Russia has warned Iran it could lose Moscow's support unless it

INDIAN EXPRESS

# Jaswant UN hope fades

K.P. NAYAR

New York, Jan. 15: Speculation about an Indian nominee for the number two job of deputy secretary-general of the UN has been temporarily halted with a UN spokesman making it clear that the job will not be filled until the beginning of next year.

Responding to a rash of stories worldwide about former external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and Indian ambassador to Russia, Kanwal Sibal, as candidates for the second most important job at the UN, Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for secretary-general Kofi Annan, has said the outgoing deputy secretary-general, Louise Frechette, was appointed by Annan as what the spokesman called "a very personal" choice.

"For the remaining time of his own term", Dujarric said, "it is the secretary-general's intention to use, where appropriate, his own executive office team to cover the deputy secretary-general's responsibilities and functions."

Frechette, Canada's former deputy minister for defence, resigned on December 16, 2005, but has agreed to Annan's request to stay in her post until April this year in order to complete her role in coordinating the secretary-general's proposals for implementing comprehensive management reform of the world body.

The Volcker report into the oil-for-food programme in Iraq, which led to the exit

of K. Natwar Singh from the Union cabinet, has also come in the way of an immediate choice for the number two UN job.

Paul Volcker had recommended the appointment of a chief operating officer for the UN. The spokesman said "the proposal put forward by Volcker would have to be studied by member states in the way that it was outlined in his report".

Annan's decision to use his existing team to carry out the duties of the deputy secretary-general until the beginning of 2007 is a shot in the arm for the as yet undeclared candidature of Shashi Tharoor to be next secretary-general.

As he is likely to share some of Frechette's burden between April and December as a key member of Annan's team, those making the choice of a new secretary-general will have a better opportunity to assess his work, especially in areas which go beyond his present responsibilities as under secretary-general for communications and public information.

Annan's decision to leave the choice of a new deputy to his successor, who will take charge on January 1, 2007, has also bolstered the chances of an Asian secretary-general.

The early appointment of an Asian to succeed Frechette, even as the search goes on for a new UN chief, would have eliminated candidates from Asia for the top job.

16 JAN 2006

THE TELEGRAPH



January 24, 2006

## U.N. Looking at Charges of Fraud in Procurement

By WARREN HOGE

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 23 - The United Nations management chief said Monday that an investigation of the purchase of equipment for peacekeeping operations had turned up more than 200 allegations of fraud amounting to tens of millions of dollars.

The official, Christopher B. Burnham, the under secretary general for management, said an audit by the United Nations' internal watchdog had turned up "significant evidence of abuse" and had led to the suspension with pay of eight officials from the offices of peacekeeping and management.

He said that much of the information was furnished by staff members and that there was "anecdotal evidence" that a new whistleblower protection policy had made them willing to come forward now.

"Clearly, I think the potential abuse could go into the tens of millions of dollars, and it could go higher than that," Mr. Burnham said. "But we're in the middle of looking at 200 different cases, reports, and if the men and women of the United Nations continue to show the courage they have in the last six months, in the next six months I expect that figure to go up."

The new findings emerged as the United Nations was being challenged to overhaul its management structure and practices to avoid repetition of the kind of failure in running the scandal-ridden oil-for-food program in Iraq that so undermined the organization.

"It's very disturbing," John R. Bolton, the United States ambassador, said of the new report. "It shows the sad record of mismanagement that we're trying to deal with through the reform process."

He said that "it's not just simply this incident or that incident of corruption or mismanagement," but "a culture problem that we're facing here." He pointed out that the United States had paid 27 percent of the peacekeeping budget.

The investigation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services follows a guilty plea in Federal District Court in Manhattan last August by Aleksandr V. Yakovlev, a United Nations procurement officer, to charges of bribing contractors and a report from Deloitte Consulting last month that found the procurement office badly managed and vulnerable to fraud.

Mr. Burnham, an American who was the State Department's chief financial officer until taking up his present post in June, said that the United Nations was "being proactive" in pursuing the cases.

He declined to identify the suspended officials, but two who have been cited by news agencies, Andrew Toh, who heads the Office of Central Support Services, and Christian Saunders, the Procurement Division chief, have denied any impropriety.

Mr. Burnham said the measures were administrative rather than disciplinary and did not "presume any wrongdoing."

He said Secretary General Kofi Annan was "absolutely leading this effort to insure that we are executing the best practices as we ferret out corruption and fraud and abuse here at the United Nations."

Asked if he endorsed that view, Mr. Bolton, a frequent critic of Mr. Annan's stewardship of the United Nations, said, "I'm glad that Chris Burnham is under secretary general for management."

washingtonpost.com

## U.N. Finds Waste in Peacekeeping Work

Eight Procurement Officials Suspended

By Colum Lynch  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Tuesday, January 24, 2006; A14

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 23 -- An internal U.N. probe of the department that runs international peacekeeping operations has uncovered extensive evidence of mismanagement and possible fraud, and triggered the suspension of eight procurement officials pending an investigation, according to U.N. officials and documents.

U.N. investigators have uncovered rampant waste, price inflation and suspicion that employees colluded with vendors in awarding contracts for a variety of peacekeeping programs, said a confidential report presented to several governments Monday.

Peacekeepers, for example, spent \$10.4 million to lease a helicopter for use in East Timor that could have been secured for \$1.6 million, and paid \$2.4 million to buy seven aircraft hangars in Congo that were never used, the report said. An additional \$65 million or more was spent for fuel that was not needed for missions in Sudan and Haiti, said the report, which called for an investigation into whether U.N. staff members improperly "colluded to award" one U.N. supplier an \$85.9 million fuel contract for the Sudan mission.

The failure of U.N. managers to enforce basic standards has led to a "culture of impunity" in U.N. spending, according to the report. Together, it says that there are "strong" indications of fraud involving contracts whose value totaled about \$193 million, nearly 20 percent of the \$1 billion in U.N. business examined by the auditors.

"We have no idea yet as to the scope of this, but I believe that we have significant evidence of fraud and corruption," the U.N. undersecretary for management, Christopher Burnham, told reporters Monday. Burnham, a former Bush administration official, went further than other U.N. officials in characterizing the seriousness of the wrongdoing.

Burnham, however, said that the decision to suspend the eight officials -- including Andrew Toh, who recently oversaw the U.N. procurement department, and Christian Saunders, the director of the U.N. procurement division -- did not represent a finding that they had done anything wrong. The two have both denied any wrongdoing.

The U.N. findings come as the organization is struggling to recover from a financial scandal involving abuse of the \$64 billion oil-for-food program in prewar Iraq and reports of widespread sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers.

U.S. prosecutors, meanwhile, are conducting their own investigation into criminal wrongdoing in U.N.

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contracting. The U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York in August charged a former U.N. procurement officer, Alexander Yakovlev, with receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes on behalf of companies doing business with the United Nations. Yakovlev pleaded guilty to three counts of wire fraud and agreed to cooperate with the ongoing investigation.

Monday's revelations came as U.N. peacekeeping operations are expanding rapidly, with more than 70,000 uniformed police and blue-helmeted troops posted in 18 missions around the world. The United Nations is gearing up for a new peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Sudan, and has asked the Security Council to authorize an increase of 4,000 peacekeepers in Ivory Coast.

"We know that we have some areas of difficulty that have to be strengthened," said Jane Holl Lute, a senior peacekeeping official, noting that U.N. officials alerted the investigators to possible wrongdoing. "We are operating in a highly complex, highly volatile operating environment in places around the world that are difficult, austere and, as evidenced by the killing of eight Guatemalan peacekeepers today in the Congo, dangerous."

John R. Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the procurement scandal would not prompt a retreat from U.N. peacekeeping. But he said it underscored the need for far-reaching administrative changes in the world body.

"It is very disturbing. It shows the sad record of mismanagement that we are trying to deal with through the reform process," he said.

The U.N. Office of Internal Oversight, which conducted the inquiry, cited several cases in which they found "fraud indicators," or cause for suspicion.

The helicopter deal in East Timor was one of them. U.N. procurement officers had been offered a \$1.6 million lease for an Mi-26 helicopter, the report said, but the procurement documents did not reflect that offer. The U.N. report called for an investigation into why officials paid \$8.8 million too much and into their dealings with vendors.

The report did not name individuals or companies suspected of breaking U.N. procurement rules. But an earlier draft, made available to The Washington Post, included some names of companies and U.N. staffers.

For instance, it identified SkyLink Aviation Inc., a Canadian firm, as the company that supplied fuel to the U.N. mission in Sudan. A spokesman for SkyLink, Jan Ottens, confirmed that his company had that contract and he denied any wrongdoing. He said SkyLink actually lost "bundles" of money from the fuel contract.

Ottens said the problem was that the United Nations overestimated the amount of oil it would need because it anticipated the deployment of tens of thousands of peacekeepers that never arrived.

He also said auditors failed to note that his company billed the United Nations only for the oil that was used, representing about half the cost envisioned by the fuel contract. He said his company, meanwhile, had to absorb the costs of setting up the infrastructure for delivering far greater quantities of oil than the United Nations eventually bought.

"We were misled" by the United Nations, he said. "We are very unhappy with that fuel contract."

# G-4 resolution tabled again in U.N. Assembly

Diplomatic Correspondent

**NEW DELHI:** Japan did not join Germany, Brazil and India in "re-tabling" the G-4 resolution of July 6, 2005, seeking expansion of the United Nations' Security Council in New York on Thursday.

Official sources said today that while the Japanese permanent representative to the U.N. was present, Tokyo did not join the other constituents of the G-4 in tabling the resolution again.

According to the sources, the resolution had to be tabled again because the U.N. General Assembly had begun a new session.

Also, the African Union had brought forward its own draft and the General Assembly could not vote on two similar resolutions.

They pointed out that even though the G-4 resolution was tabled at short notice, the draft had 25 co-sponsors. France was one of the co-sponsors of the draft, which calls for increasing the number of Security Council seats from 15 to 25 by adding six permanent and four non-permanent members.

A statement from the External Affairs Ministry said on Friday that Brazil, Germany and India "will continue" the coop-

erative framework of the G-4 with Japan. "All member states are welcome to discuss the draft resolution. Discussions will be undertaken with an open mind with a view to further broadening the basis of support."

"The aim of the re-tabling the G-4 draft resolution is not to call for a vote in the immediate future, but to further explore the potential of joining hands with all member states supporting structural reform of the Security Council. In this context, the efforts of the African Union are encouraging," it said.

The statement claimed it was

widely recognised that no other model for the reform and expansion of the Security Council had met with a similarly high level of endorsement as that of the G-4. "A comprehensive reform of the U.N. Security Council will bring it in line with contemporary realities and strengthen the United Nations as a whole."

"It is hoped that the tabling of G-4 draft resolution will impart new impetus to Security Council reform, without which the overall reform of the United Nations will be incomplete, as has been stated on several occasions, including by the U.N. Secretary General [Kofi Annan]," it added.

7 JAN 2006

THE HINDU