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IAEA Resolution on Iran Atomic Program

Laurie Dhue: *More atomic anxiety from Iran. Tehran is insisting that it has the right to enrich uranium to produce nuclear power. Iran says its decision to suspend its nuclear enrichment program was just temporary and that there are no plans to actually end it permanently. All this comes as the UN's nuclear agency, the IAEA adopted a new resolution regarding Iran's nuclear activity. Joining us now is the president of Strategic Policy Consulting, Alireza Jafarzadeh who publicly revealed the existence of secret nuclear sites in Iran back in August of 2002. Alireza, good to see you.*

Jafarzadeh: Thank you, good to see you.

Laurie Dhue: In this new resolution, the IAEA condemned Iran's past transgressions while recognizing an offer of cooperation and openness. Was this strong enough language, in your opinion?

Jafarzadeh: Absolutely not. I think it was too weak because the IAEA report shows 18 years of lies and deception and that should have been enough to declare them as noncompliant and refer them to the UN Security Council, none of which are included in the UN resolution.

Laurie Dhue: You know there was a lot of haggling even just to get to this point. The US wanted to report Iran to the UN Security Council, France and Germany once again getting involved saying no. They eventually won out. What message then do you think this sends to Tehran?

Jafarzadeh: I think, unfortunately this sends a message of indecisiveness and weakness. Tehran has already been emboldened. As you mentioned earlier, just yesterday the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iranian Regime announced that they are going to resume the enrichment of uranium and even threatened the countries who have sided with the US on this issue. So that's not the kind of message you want to send to a country that has been lying for 18 years.

Laurie Dhue: This resolution does however contain a so called trigger clause that if breaches are discovered, all bets are off, essentially. You said a moment ago there are already enough breaches to declare Iran in noncompliance with the Nonproliferation Treaty. What specifically are they?

Jafarzadeh: Well, Iran clearly violated and breach that, because they enriched uranium without telling anybody. They made plutonium without telling anybody. According to IAEA, they cheated inspectors repeatedly by giving them contradictory and changing stories. These are all clear breaches of the NPT and warrants to be referred to the UN Security Council.

Laurie Dhue: Does Iran have any right, whatsoever, to enrich uranium if they say it is for peaceful purposes and how do we prove that it's not for peaceful purposes?

Jafarzadeh: Well, the way the whole process has started, clearly shows that this is not for peaceful purposes. Number one, they have no need for peaceful nuclear energy, but more important than that, they did all of these activities in secret without telling anybody. They built a uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, a heavy water facility in Arak, a number of other sites in Karaj, in Hashtgerd, in Isfahan without informing anybody. The sources that have revealed this information from inside the Iranian regime, many of them right here on Fox News are the ones saying that Iran does have a secret nuclear weapons program because it's a critical thing for their survival.

Laurie Dhue: Right. Well some in the Bush administration are saying that they see this resolution as a kind of a trap, a chance to let the regime hang itself. Do you agree?

Jafarzadeh: I think it all depends on how the international community will deal with this. I think this is an important, crucial, litmus test for the international community to hold Tehran responsible for what they would do in the future. I think any future breaches of the Iranian regime including further revelations by the opposition about their other nuclear sites should be immediately referred to the Security Council. That's, I think, the position that the US and its allies must pursue.

Laurie Dhue: Final question for you, Alireza, bottom line, how worried do we need to be about what might be going on inside Iran?

Jafarzadeh: I think it's very worrisome because this is a regime that's the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, it's been involved in so many terrorist activities around the world, it's already meddling in the internal affairs of its neighboring country, Iraq. What the US needs to do, they need to step up pressure, not only on the UN side in terms of this resolution, but also stepping up support for the Iranian opposition. Just last week there was a major antigovernment demonstration by tens and thousands of the residents of Tehran who repeated a call by the Iranian opposition leader for referendum for regime change in Iran, they called for freedom of all political prisoners and end to theocracy in Iran.

Laurie Dhue: Alireza Jafarzadeh, the president of Strategic Policy Consulting, Inc. and a Fox News analyst, thank you very much for being with us today.

Jafarzadeh: Thank you, Laurie.