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afgazad@gmail.com زبانهای اروپانی

by Thierry Meyssan 22.03.2025

After Ukraine, Iran?

For the "revisionist Zionists" (that is, the successors of Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Benzion Netanyahu—not to be confused with Theodor Hertzl's "Zionists"), the time has come, after the victory over Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Assads, to crush Iran. On the contrary, for Donald Trump, after the pacification of the Ukrainian conflict, the priority must be to pacify the one surrounding Iran. The press has its eyes on Palestine, but it is around Tehran that peace in the Middle East is being played out.

VOLTAIRE NETWORK / PARIS (FRANCE) / 20 MARCH 2025



Anwar Gargash traveled to Tehran on March 12 to deliver a letter from Donald Trump to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In Tehran, Iranians are anxiously wondering whether, once their economy is exhausted and they can no longer defend themselves, the Israelis and the United States will bomb them. Under these circumstances, should they or should they not negotiate with the enigmatic President Donald Trump?

On March 2, 2025, the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) voted no confidence in Economy and Finance Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati, due to his handling of the Western economic blockade and the resulting economic crisis. On the same day, his friend Mohammad Javad Zarif, former negotiator of the Joint Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (JCPOA) and current Vice President, submitted his resignation.

President Donald Trump revealed on March 7 that he had sent a letter to Iran. The international press had announced that it had been handed over that same day by Sergei Ryabkov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, to Abbas Araghchi, Iranian Foreign Minister. But Nournews revealed that Russia had refused to act as intermediary. According to Esmail Baghaei, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, it was ultimately Anwar Gargash, diplomatic advisor to the President of the United Arab Emirates, who handed it over on March 12. In any case, without waiting to hear about it, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Revolution, declared: "What's the point of negotiating when we know he won't honor his commitments? We sat at the same table and negotiated for several years, and once the agreement was completed, finalized, and signed, he overturned the table and tore it up." »



Mohammad Javad Zarif and Secretary of State John Kerry stroll through the streets of Geneva during the JCPoA negotiations.

THE JCPOA'S LEGACY

Indeed, in 2013, Iran negotiated a comprehensive agreement with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany, the 5+1, in Geneva. They resulted in the

temporary halt of Iran's nuclear program and a partial lifting of Western unilateral coercive measures and Security Council economic sanctions. The 5+1 negotiations then broke off, while direct discussions between Iran and the United States continued behind the scenes. They finally resumed in 2015 in Lausanne. The public agreement was signed in Vienna, in much the same terms as the draft that had been drawn up two years earlier. It is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA).

The United States finally recognized the Islamic Republic's right to develop its civilian nuclear program. In exchange, Iran agreed to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify that it was not concurrently developing a military program. To this end, it agreed to possess no more than 5,060 centrifuges, not enrich uranium above 3.67%, and limit its plutonium production.

France and the United Kingdom expressed satisfaction, while the French negotiator, Sayan Laurent Fabius, acknowledged that, as the talks progressed, he had informed the Israeli Prime Minister, his friend Benjamin Netanyahu, without the knowledge of other diplomats.

Russia and China concluded from these discussions, confirmed by their own observations on the ground, that Iran had closed its military nuclear program in 1988, in accordance with a fatwa from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and had never resumed it [1].



On April 30, 2018, Benjamin Netanyahu presented the 100,000 documents stolen by the Mossad from Tehran. According to him, they prove that Iran lied and is preparing an atomic bomb to annihilate the population of the Jewish state.

On April 30, 2018, Benjamin Netanyahu released 100,000 documents stolen by the Mossad from archives in Tehran relating to the AMAD project. He explained that, by resorting to the

Muslim principle of Taqiya, Iran had lied. Tehran had developed a military nuclear program from 1989 to 2003 under the leadership of physicist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

A week later, on May 8, 2018, President Donald Trump announced the United States' withdrawal from the agreement signed by the Obama administration in Vienna. The persistent unilateral Western coercive measures are maintained and strengthened.

"Since then, Iran has lost \$100 billion a year," according to former President Hassan Rouhani. By this measure, the US withdrawal would have caused \$650 billion in losses over the past six and a half years.

Subsequently, nuclear experts who studied the Iranian documents provided by Israel would all insist that it was not Iran that lied, but Israel. The only part of the AMAD project that could be linked to the manufacture of an atomic bomb is a shock wave generator, which is used to make a detonator for this type of bomb. [

On March 12, the same day President Trump's letter was delivered, France, Greece, Panama, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States convened the Security Council behind closed doors to examine Iran's continued failure to comply with IAEA requests for information.

<u>The following day, May 13, Mohammad Hassan-Nejad Pirkouhi, Director General for</u> <u>International Peace and Security at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, summoned the ambassadors</u> <u>of the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. He criticized them for convening the</u> <u>Security Council as "irresponsible and provocative" and abusing UN mechanisms. He</u> <u>emphasized that while Iran is no longer complying with its commitment not to enrich</u> <u>uranium above 3.67%, it is still respecting its JCPoA commitments to IAEA inspectors and</u> <u>fulfilling its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).</u>

<u>The United Kingdom has indicated its readiness, no later than October 18, to reinstate UN</u> sanctions if Iran does not curb its uranium enrichment. These sanctions have, in fact, been suspended, not repealed.

On March 14, Russian Sergei Ryabkov and Iranian Kazem Gharibabadi met with their Chinese counterpart, Ma Zhaoxu, in Beijing. The latter emphasized that "the parties concerned should commit to addressing the root causes of the current situation and abandoning sanctions, pressure, or threats of force." » At a press conference, Kazem Gharibabadi said that "all negotiations and discussions will be focused exclusively on the nuclear issue and the lifting of sanctions." The former JCPoA negotiator, for his part, told the BBC that "negotiations should not include Iran's missile program or its regional influence. Adding these topics would complicate the process and make it unmanageable." Finally, Sergei Lavrov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, told the press that adding additional conditions to the negotiations would doom them to failure. Finally, Mao Ning, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed that "in the current situation, we believe that all parties must maintain calm and restraint in order to avoid the escalation of the Iranian nuclear situation or march towards confrontation and conflict. »

Meanwhile, G7 foreign ministers, meeting in La Malbaie, Canada, discussed arbitrary detentions in Iran and assassination attempts by Iranian intelligence abroad.

On March 15, former President Hassan Rouhani emphasized that Leader Ali Khamenei "does not have absolute opposition to negotiations." He continued: "Didn't we negotiate with the United States on Iraq, Afghanistan, and the nuclear deal? Even back then, when I was secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, the Leader himself wrote that negotiations must adhere to certain principles."



From the State Department, where he is in charge of Venezuela, Elliott Abrams, who brought together Straussians and revisionist Zionists within the Vandenberg Coalition, advocates for an attack on Iran.

THE STAKES OF THE NEW NEGOTIATIONS

If new contacts take place (and it is likely that they have already begun), the pacification of US-Iranian relations would once again disrupt the broader Middle East.

Currently, Iran has lost in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. Tehran maintains its military influence only in Yemen. Economically, the country, subject to unilateral Western coercive measures, is on the brink of famine, like Iraq before the overthrow of Saddam Hussein (2002) and Syria before the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad (2024). It would no longer be able to withstand a ground invasion.

<u>Nature abhors a vacuum, and Israel and Turkey are attempting to divide up the region's</u> <u>ruins. The internal pacification of the Kurdish question in Turkey delegitimizes the position</u> <u>of Kurdish mercenaries from the pseudo-state formed in Syria (Rojava) and makes them</u> <u>available for a possible ground invasion of Iran on behalf of Israel.</u>

<u>Behind the scenes, the man behind Benjamin Netanyahu, Elliott Abrams [3]</u>, is doing everything possible to turn President Donald Trump against Tehran [4].

Thierry Meyssan

Translation

Roger Lagassé

[1] "Who's afraid of Iran's civilian nuclear programme?", by Thierry Meyssan, *Voltaire Network*, 27 July 2010.

[2] "Shock Wave Generator for Iran'sNuclear Weapons Program:More than a Feasibility Study", David Albright and Olli Heinonen, *Foundation for Defense of Democraties (FDD)*, May 7, 2019. (PDF - 4.3 Mo).

[3] "<u>The coup d'état of the Straussians in Israel</u>", by Thierry Meyssan, Translation Roger Lagassé, *Voltaire Network*, 7 March 2023.

[4] «Deals of the Century: Solving the Middle East», *The Vanderberg Coalition*, January 2025. (PDF - 12,2 Mo)

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