

The Smoking Gun

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Gregg Jarrett: Just days after President Bush declared a tougher fight against the spread of nuclear weapons, news reports: Iran may not have revealed everything about its nuclear program. The Islamic Republic is now admitting to having an advanced design for uranium enriching centrifuge.

Joining us now to talk about this latest development is Fox News Foreign Affairs Analyst, Alireza Jafarzadeh, good to see you as always.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Good to see you.

Gregg Jarrett: Look, you are such an expert on this subject, and you know what's been going on in Iran so well, is this the smoking gun, there's no doubt now that they were trying to develop nuclear weapons, right?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: There was no doubt in my mind and there was no doubt in many other people's mind, Gregg. This is in fact the smoking gun. This is very serious because number one, it shows that Iran has not been truthful and forthcoming in their nuclear weapons program. They had pledged already in October that they would be very transparent; it became clear that they had been lying and deceiving. Second, this machine is a very sensitive design for super-efficient nuclear equipment known as the P2 machine that would enable Iran to get bomb-grade material far more quickly than they already were able to do with the P1 machine. So this is very very serious.

Gregg Jarrett: Yeah, I mean this isn't low grade uranium enrichment for nuclear power. This is for nuclear weaponry. What's interesting is that they bow to international pressure to suspend all nuclear enrichment; do you think they really have or they're secretly doing it?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: They have not.

Gregg Jarrett: Natanz?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well in Natanz they continue to assemble the machines, and they have announced last month that they are working on the resumption of the enrichment which by itself is in noncompliance. I tell you honestly, Gregg, I think back in October they were already in noncompliance. They should have already been declared as such, and they should have been referred to the UN Security Council.

Now, with this new revelation, I think there should be no time wasted, and they should be announced in noncompliance and be referred to the UN Security Council.

Gregg Jarrett: And they continue, astonishingly to make and assemble centrifuges. I mean there's no other use for these centrifuges except for nuclear weapons, right?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Especially when they hide this whole thing. You know the important thing about Iran's program is their secrecy, they lied for 18 years, then they say ok, we're going to be transparent, we're going to have everything under the supervision of the UN, then you now find out that they have a much more advanced, much more sensitive machine with their designs. God knows what else they already have.

Gregg Jarrett: Yeah, we also know that they have been increasingly developing longer and longer range delivery systems missiles, so they could put one of these nuclear devices on that missile and what would be their target, Israel or what else?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, the missile that they already have is Shahab-3 with the range of over 800 miles, or maybe 880 miles, they are already working on Shahab-4 that, once completed, it would give them a much bigger range. Just about all the countries in the region are already in their range, including the position of the US forces in the Middle East.

Gregg Jarrett: Do you think they have a bomb?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I'm not sure, I don't know but I wouldn't be surprised if ...

Gregg Jarrett: It could be found.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: They are very close according to the information that I've had from inside the Iranian regime, their projected plan was to be able to get the bomb by 2005.

Gregg Jarrett: Next year.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: So they either have it or they're very close.

Gregg Jarrett: Alright, Alireza Jafarzadeh, a real expert on this. Thank you very much for being with us.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you very much Gregg.