



## Offering Nuclear Fuel on the International Market 15 February 2004

***Page Hopkins:** Iran says it is offering some nuclear fuel on the international market but the government in Tehran says it's not for weapons but for energy producing reactors. Joining us now with their knowledge of the Iranian regime's true intentions, we have Tim Trevan, former UN weapons inspector and Alireza Jafarzadeh, our Fox News foreign affairs analyst.*

Welcome both of you gentlemen. I'm going to start with you Alireza. Iran says that they are offering to sell this on the international market under the watch of the UN agency, the IAEA. Skeptics say who are we kidding?! This is going to be used for weapons. What have you heard, what do you know?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well Page this is really appalling for Iran to offer providing nuclear fuel to the international market is like for a fox to offer guarding chicken feed ...

**Page Hopkins:** A hen house.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Exactly as a means to, a new ploy to get to the hen. And I think this is exactly the same situation, especially when you are talking about a regime that has an 18-year track record of lying and deceiving on its nuclear program. They just had a new design of uranium enrichment machine revealed that they had not declared it, so against that kind of a track record you don't want the Iranian regime to have that kind of a capability and the danger with that is that if they are able to get the complete nuclear fuel cycle that would very well put them just months away from producing weapons grade material which means getting the bomb.

**Page Hopkins:** Tim, I want to ask you because when we were all reading this, this morning we were all scratching our heads, the story sounds absurd, Iran selling this with this UN watchdog agency watching? What's going on, I mean it just sounds unbelievable.

**Tim Trevan:** I'm not sure that the fuel is the thing to watch here, certainly if the US or the UK could buy this fuel and take it off the market, it would be a good thing. But what's of concern here is, of course, that they are developing this capability to provide, to create the fuel and provide it to the market.

And one of the things we've learned from the past through the International Atomic Energy Agency and through UNSCOM's experience in Iraq is that one of the

prerequisites for them to hide a clandestine nuclear weapons program is to have a large civilian nuclear industry.

**Page Hopkins:** Um hum.

**Tim Trevan:** And that the larger that Iran builds its civilian nuclear industry, the more capability it has to hide a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

**Page Hopkins:** So why are we letting this happen? We are trying to deter Iran from having the capability to have WMD? Why is this being allowed to take place?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well, this is my question, Page, I think Iran is already in violation. They were in noncompliance back in October. They should have been declared as such. They should have been referred to the UN Security Council and sanctions could have been possibly pursued. They have gotten away with a lot of violations, and right now we have this new violation. I think the policy that the US and the IAEA need to pursue in regards to Iran's nuclear weapons program is two full policies, number one, there should be a zero tolerance in terms of their proliferation, second on the political side...

**Page Hopkins:** Um hum.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** You need to hit the Ayatollahs where their "Achilles' Heel" is which is supporting their main Iranian opposition. This is the only thing that would make the Ayatollahs tick and because there is a lot of problem domestically, there are a lot of demonstrations against the Iranian regime...

**Page Hopkins:** Sure, a lot of them.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** That's an approach you need to pursue to, for the Ayatollah's to take the International community serious, and it's very appalling now instead of getting that response, they're taking a new step forward, saying we're going to provide, you know fuel for the international community.

**Page Hopkins:** Tim, you're a former weapons inspector, what steps do you think we can take?

**Tim Trevan:** The trouble is the international legal situation is one that allows Iran to follow peaceful nuclear activities. That's perfectly allowed and their civil nuclear program would be totally legitimate. So we have to insist that there's total transparency with this program. We have to insist on very intrusive inspections, and I think absolutely right we need to have zero tolerance policy towards any proliferation stuff we hear. And if it turns out that through the Libya connection or through the Pakistani connection that more has gone to Iran that they have so far declared, then we have to go down on them very tough.

**Page Hopkins:** And then again we might find ourselves where we were before, at the UN, negotiating to get the support of the other countries?

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Well you know, Page, the Libyan program was really no way anywhere close to where the Iranian program is. They didn't even have the delivery system, they didn't have this kind of centrifuge equipments, and I think this is the danger. We should not be, you know, taken away with all these discussions and talks and all that and allowing them to proceed: the zero tolerance is a very important policy that needs to be pursued.

**Page Hopkins:** Alireza, Thank you very much, Tim, thank you very both so much.

**Time Trevan:** Thank you.

**Alireza Jafarzadeh:** Thank you, Page, my pleasure.