



WMD Breakthrough? February 6, 2004

Martha: And in his defense of pre-war intelligence yesterday, CIA director, George Tenet, revealed that although Iraq did not have a nuclear bomb, Saddam was “aggressively and covertly” trying to develop one. That thought all the more frightening as we learn about what some are calling a Pakistan-based nuclear supermarket, that supplied Iran, Libya, North Korea and who knows what other countries with nuclear technology for more than a decade.

Joining us now to discuss post war moves to end nuclear proliferation is Alireza Jafarzadeh, who is a Fox News Channel foreign affairs contributor. Good to have you with us.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you very much, Martha.

Martha: Tell me, you know, we heard a lot yesterday, obviously from George Tenet, about what has been done in terms of ending this nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, I guess the big question though is that did the war in Iraq send a message to terrorists in the Middle East? We’ve seen Moamar Ghadafi turning over some of his plans for nuclear proliferation. We’ve also seen A Q Khan coming forward with an apology yesterday. Do you believe that the war in Iraq has been a catalyst to lead to these events?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I know there’s a debate, especially regarding Iran that what brought the Ayatollahs to the table was dialogue and what the Europeans did in helping negotiations on that. But I don’t think that’s the case. What brought the Ayatollahs to the table was really steadfastness, firmness. They were scared of what’s going to happen to them, partly because of what happened to their neighboring country but also partly because there was tremendous international pressure, especially by the US against Iran. They were faced with stunning revelations about these nuclear sites that clearly showed where those sites existed. I appeared on Fox News actually on August 14, 2002 and revealed the uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, and when the UN inspection teams went there, they were stunned seeing the actual centrifuge equipments there. So it was that kind of pressure and attention that has really frightened the Ayatollahs, and I think that needs to be followed up with continued pressure especially on the political side. There is tremendous trouble in Iran right now, the population is against the Iranian regime, so that’s another angle I think the US needs to pursue.

Martha: So, let's take a look at a quote, actually it's an editorial in the Wall Street Journal today, which sort of brings us back to one of the original notions for going to war in Iraq and that was "Let's recall why everyone cared about Iraq's WMD in the first place. The nightmare scenario, all too plausible after September 11, is that a dictator who trucks with terrorists will give them a nuclear weapon to explode on American soil." (The Wall Street Journal, February 6, 2004) I mean, when you think back to that time period that was really the concern, not so much that Saddam Hussein, what he might have been building for his own country or his defense, but what might he have been giving to other terrorists. Where do you think we stand with regard to that? Do you think we have accomplished a lot in Iraq, clearly by the fall of Saddam Hussein, but in terms of how that has trickled into other countries and what might have been coming out of Pakistan as well, in terms of that traffic? How does it look to you right now?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I think, certainly the developments in Iraq, has put a new focus, a new attention on, exactly as you said, the other sources of threat. I think by far Islamic Fundamentalism that is emanating from Iran, is the source of the problem. That's what they are doing right now in Iraq: trying to destabilize the situation there, to eventually be able to build an Islamic Republic there. But also in terms of proliferation, the US ambassador to the IAEA actually yesterday said that Iran has not been as cooperative as Libya has been. In fact what Libya produced in about few days, in three four days, Iran has not produced in 9 months. So it is a serious problem in terms of nuclear proliferation, in terms of Iran, that they are not being cooperative, they have not abandoned their nuclear weapons program and given the fact that they are the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, exactly as you said, that threat is there and we should be very concerned about a nuclear weapon falling into the hands of terrorists.

Martha: Mr. Jafarzadeh, thank you very much for being with us, obviously you've just touched the tip of the iceberg but we have to go back to the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld who is making more comments and responding to questions, let's listen in for a moment.