



Blocking Nukes

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Linda Vester: *And just a little over half an hour from now, President Bush will announce a brand new plan to stop dangerous countries from getting their hands on nuclear fuel. We will bring you his speech live on nuclear technology. The speech will be live here on 2:30 eastern time, on Fox News Channel and this speech comes just days after Pakistan's top nuclear scientist who was pardoned for selling nuclear secrets to terror nations like North Korea, Iran, and Libya, which gives us some questions to Alireza Jafarzadeh, he is a Fox News foreign affairs analyst and President of Strategic Policy Consulting, Inc. Welcome back to Dayside.*

(Applause)

Linda Vester: First of all, you know if you could whisper in the presidents' ear, what do you think is the most important thing for him to do to keep more nuclear technology from getting in the hands of rogue nations?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, Linda, I think from what I understand the president is going to say this afternoon, he's going to certainly distinguish between rogue states and those entrepreneurs who would be in the black market because of the different strategies in dealing with that.

Linda Vester: True.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: But he's also going to introduce a number of measures that would strengthen the security for proliferation. Also he's going to have control for agencies like the IAEA because there are a number of loopholes, serious loopholes. I think the president has recognized that Iran actually took advantage of that loophole, that's how they developed their nuclear weapons program.

Linda Vester: I'm going to ask on Iran on a different subject, so the head of Pakistan, Parviz Musharaf has been saying, well you know I didn't catch this black market scientists for years because the US didn't give me enough evidence to prove it and there's more of it going on, but geees I'm kind of limited in what I can do. I'm sorry that sounds unacceptable.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, Linda, this is not a network that was like a one man show that developed overnight. This extended to 3 different continents and over many years. I'm surprised...

Linda Vester: But so why didn't Parviz Musharaf crack it down? ... President Bush is speaking today to tell him to crack down on the black market. It's still operating with it.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, I'll tell you, back in 1991 I provided information to the media, that at that time, the Iranian regimes president, Rafsanjani, had traveled to Pakistan. They made a deal, a contract with Pakistanis as much as 5 billion dollars that included nuclear related issues. That issue has been going on for more than a decade between the two countries. So this is not just something that has popped up. I think what would really make President Bush successful in accomplishing what he tries to do in addition to introducing measures for proliferation, he needs to couple it, on the political side, with compatible political measures to make sure that countries, who will not comply will pay a high price for it. Unfortunately they pretty much got away with their developments, what they have been doing, and they feel that if we're caught, no problem, no big deal, well we're caught ...

Linda Vester: Oh, so sorry but ...

Alireza Jafarzadeh: We're sorry about this, but they haven't paid the price, that's what we've got to do.

Linda Vester: Quick final question, I'm concerned that there are bad guys, like Hassan Gul who got caught in Iraq but others who are moving back and forward within the Iran-Iraq borders, and somehow being behind attacks in Iraq. Is that what is going on?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Certainly as far as Iraq is concerned, particularly the Iran-Iraq border is extremely porous border, the biggest border of Iraq is with Iran, 900 miles. There's a lot of influx of the agents of the Iranian regime who are coming in. You see, in the past 10 months, Iran has used the preoccupation of the attacks in the Sunni Triangle to build their network in the southern part of Iraq. They have sent thousands of clerics into Iraq, many of their agents from the Ministry of Intelligence now have safe houses in the southern part of Iraq, in Najaf, Nasseryah and Karbala. They have sent weapons to Iraq. They have a whole network; they have 4 different agencies who are trying to influence the Shiite community in the southern part of Iraq. So, by far, Iran is the biggest threat and dominance there.

Linda Vester: In a word, just a final question, is this a dangerous situation?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I think it's extremely worrisome because the ayatollahs in Iran are not going to allow the establishment of democracy and pluralism there, because it's going to spill to their turf, we have to watch them very carefully.

Linda Vester: Alright, thank you very much, Alireza.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you.