



Pakistani Scientist Admits Selling Nuke Secrets

8 February 2004

***Bob Sellers:** Investigators say that at least 7 nations are tied to the Pakistani nuclear weapons ring. Last week Pakistan's top nuclear scientist admitted he sold nuclear secrets to several nations. Libya, North Korea and Iran are among the countries that he said bought nuclear technology and parts.*

Joining us now to talk about the possible fall out, Alireza Jafarzadeh, he is the president of the Strategic Policy Consulting Company, and also a fox news foreign affairs analyst. He joins us now, good to see you sir.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you Bob.

Bob Sellers: There's also news that this guy, A Q Khan, the father of the Pakistan nuclear bomb, tried to talk to Syria and Iraq and make a deal with them but it didn't happen. So let me just ask this question: his information, nuclear secrets, the parts that other countries may provide it, through him being the main contact, how much further along does that put any of those countries toward actually having nuclear weapons?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I think the recent revelations shows that this nuclear supermarket if you will, has played a significant role, in helping a number of countries already, we already know about Libya, Iran and North Korea because it has significantly helped them in terms of technology and parts but also it shortens the time span that they can build their nuclear weapons. If that kind of assistance had been provided to any country, it could have been a very significant leap in their program.

Bob Sellers: What has he sold as far as you know, to Iran because you actually revealed one of the sites where they were working on nuclear weapons in Iran?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Yes, I did reveal back in August of 2002 the uranium enrichment facility in Natanz that you saw a minute ago the aerial picture of it. This is a significant site but when the IAEA inspectors went to the site, they saw actually centrifuge equipments that many believe that some parts at least, as well as the know-how had partially been provided by Pakistan. They were able to make the centrifuge equipments themselves in Iran but that kind of technology and parts came from Pakistan.

Bob Sellers: How many people do you think know about this in Pakistan? Because this guy, A. Q. Khan was pardoned by Mr. Musharaf, General Musharaf, and there's going to be no trial. There'll be no investigation, so we're not going to find out a whole lot.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, the more I think we dig into it, the more it becomes clear that this wasn't a small operation. I don't think this was a one man show. Rather it was a very extensive, broad network that extended to three different continents.

Bob Sellers: Yeah, three different continents, a lot of countries, we're talking about seven coming up today and who knows what else.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Exactly.

Bob Sellers: One of the big ones, Iran. Tell me what kind of danger do you think Iran poses to the US?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: I think with the Libyans now being out of the picture pretty much in terms of their nuclear weapons program that brings Iran even more into the picture. The reason that they're more serious, more dangerous is that this is a regime that's the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. They have an ideology to export, they're threatening their neighboring countries, are already meddling in the internal affairs of Iraq. They have been involved in some like 80 percent of all major terrorist attacks in the past 20 years, either directly or indirectly. So this is a country that you do not want them to have a nuclear weapons.

Bob Sellers: You also have a situation that clerics there have basically said, reformers trying to run for office in the upcoming election, you can't do it, we're not going to allow you, so it's not a real election. At what point does the US or US ally actually respond to this growing threat?

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Well, Bob, I think you brought a good example. I think the recent parliamentary so called election clearly shows that this is a regime that doesn't even tolerate its own parliamentarians. And they disqualified a good number of them who have been very loyal to the regime, itself. So that leaves the ordinary population, the people who are extremely defiant against the Iranian regime, there's a very strong opposition...

Bob Sellers: and pro-western.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: exactly they are in favor of freedom of political parties, freedom of expression, freedom of press, and religious tolerance. So that's I think the kind of policy the US needs to pursue to side with the people of Iran, to support the opposition to bring about change in the country. There's already a strong call by the population who want referendum for regime change in Iran. I think that's what the US needs to do.

Bob Sellers: Alright, we'll see how that plays out. Alireza Jafarzadeh, thank you very much.

Alireza Jafarzadeh: Thank you Bob, its' always good to be with you.