Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and Iranian Views

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22 September 2011
Background

- From beginning of the new political system in Iran (1979), the government pursued the BNPP;
- Iraq war as the first priority did not give enough chance to BNPP to become operational
- After war 1988, BNPP became one of the priority of the country
- Realization of BNPP was the symbol of not surrounding to the West’s political decision
West Agreement for BNPP

- The US was the coordinator and the trainer of Iranian senior engineers and scientists in the US
- Germany should provide technology
- France should provide enriched-uranium for BNPP
- The UK had some roles afterwards
- The original plan was to build two 1,240 MW power reactors by 1980
By 1990, BNPP was an ultimate goal for Iran
Today it is an instrument towards the goal
Within the last 20 years, Iran has learnt a lot about the science and industry of nuclear energy which is separated from BNPP
%3.5 Uranium enrichment, UCF in Isfahan, production of the second and third generation of centrifuges, heavy water reactor in Arak, making UO₂ pills for BNPP and %20 enrichment have given enough confidence to the country
BNPP: How People Look at it Positively?

- Despite the political & technical opposition of the West, an outstanding national goal has been realized.
- Access to new advanced technology.
- Variety in energy resources.
BNPP: How People Look at it Negatively?

- Taken 36 years to be launched
- More than ten $billion has been spent
- No harmony in different parts of the technology
- Technology style is old fashion
- No confidence on the safety of the technology
People Assessment of Russian Role

- Economic profit was the first priority of Russia
- Political leverage against the West was the second priority
- No confidence to Russia to deliver the fuel and the spare parts in future
- If Russia is honest and committed to its agreements with Iran then this project can be a milestone for economic cooperation in future
BNPP2 by Russia?

- The people and the elites prefer the next NPP to be built by the Western technology.
- The government has the same desire but it depends on the conditions.
- If there are other decisive economic cooperation plus BNPP2 then the situation is justifiable.
- This time BNPP2 should be the most advanced with normal time and normal price.
- If the building of such BNPP2 takes time for more than 5 years, Iran will start the project by itself.
Russian “Step by Step” Initiative

- Russia declared as much as Iran answers the IAEA questions then step by step the sanctions will be taken and removed.
- Russian Foreign Minister said this initiative had been consulted with the US and China.
- Iran responded it positively.
- After some weeks no positive response from the US or the other P5.
Ambiguity in Russian Initiative!

- Is this initiative of Russia or it is on behalf of the Security Council?
- If it is the initiative of Russia, how Russia can guarantee the agreement?
- Iran is supposed to answer which IAEA questions?
- Security Council is supposed to lift which part of the sanctions? And how? By agreement or by adoption of a resolution?
What is the New Initiative?

Iranian Part

- The regular questions are answered by Iran through direct contact between IAEA and Iran and they are reflected in the IAEA DG Reports.
- 4 years ago a “Modality” was signed between IAEA and Iran that Iran responded all questions and IAEA declared its consent and closed all chapters one by one.
- The only part of “Modality” which was not acceptable to Iran, was “Alleged Studies” as information part.
- If the questions in the new initiative means “Alleged Studies”, the Iranian position is clear.
What is the New Initiative?
Security Council Part

- Suppose Iran answers all questions, who guarantee to lift the sanctions? Security Council or Russia?
- If it is Russia, Security Council does not recognize it
- If it is the Security Council, there should be an agreement
Complete Role of Russia

- Russia has good will for different reasons
- Russia and Iran have good neighborly relations
- Iran respects the views from Russia
- So Russia should take care of its initiative and provides all necessities for the implication