

# Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and Iranian Views

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# 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

# Nuclear Science & Industry

- 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 UO<sub>2</sub> 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
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# 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