

Tudeh News

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The Security Council Resolution, Ahmadinejad's letter and the Continuing Tension in the Region

(From "Nameh Mardom" Editorial 11th May 2006)

The letter by the Iranian President Mahmood Ahmadinejad to President Bush had a major reflection in the world and in the Iranian mass media. The western countries, including the United States declared the content of the letter irrelevant to the recent problems and the international crisis over the Iranian nuclear issue. They declared the response to the letter fruitless. Some of the prominent political and social figures in Iran also assessed the Ahmadinejad's letter as shallow and full of slogans. The interesting point is that those who not so long ago would brand any contact with or resuming of any relations with the United States as "betrayal of the Khomeini's way", so suddenly are advocating face to face negotiations (about Iraq) and writing letters to the "great Satan". According to a report by ISNA news agency, Ahmadinejad, in response to a question whether the negotiations with the U.S. will be face to face said: "We favor negotiations, but it is normal that different sides have different conditions. We have no conditions for negotiations, but those who want to negotiate with bad manners and insult have to change themselves." He continued: "If someone puts a weapon on your temple and says talk, of course you would not talk." Ahmadinejad rejected the possibility of military assault by the U.S. against Iran and said: "It is not very likely that they do

anything irrational. But in anyway we will be ready for every situation."

On the same issue, Mohammad Khatami, the previous Iranian president, said: "Everything must be done according to the strategic views and the expediencies and the general policies of the country". He added: "For sure there should be a plan and motivation behind writing this letter." In response to a question about his interview with the CNN in 1997, he said: "When in 1997, I interviewed with the CNN, Iran was not in a good standing in the public opinion of the world and the Americans. With that interview, I was going to change that situation and the result was that Albright talked frankly about the mistakes and wrong policies of the United States against Iran. Clinton also, in his speech at the time, in a way, apologized and the position of U.S. changed." The president of the International Institute for Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations continued: "Also, Imam Khomeini's opinion was that if U.S. apologizes, the door for negotiations will be open. At the time, the general policy of the regime was not based on negotiations with the U.S. and today also, I don't know what the motivation and plan is behind writing this letter and what effects it will have.... I don't know if this letter is written to indicate that Iran is ready for negotiations or the regime's strategy with respect to U.S. has changed."

Ahmadinejad's letter was sent to Bush when shortly before that the Foreign Affairs ministers of the five members of the Security Council, in intense negotiations, were trying to reach an agreement on a resolution about Iran. Of course, the resolution submitted by the

U.S., Britain and France was opposed by Russia and China. In an interview with the CNN, Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, said that an agreement was reached that the European countries will present Iran with a set of proposals to break the present deadlock and give Iran two weeks to give a positive response to these proposals.

Besides all that, the TIME magazine published a letter by Hassan Rohani, the representative of the Supreme Leader in the National Security Council that contained his proposals for solving the present deadlock. Tudeh Party of Iran believes that by reducing the tension and opening the way for negotiations, the way for issuing a resolution against Iran in the Security Council should be blocked. Past experiences, specially the painful developments in Iraq showed that issuing loose resolutions with very general statements and terms would open the way for intervention and pressure against the country. That is why this should be prevented with all the power in our disposal.

More than relating to the Iranian nuclear programs, the background of the present tensions have to do with the plans and policies of the imperialism in the region and the role of the present Iranian government against it. The military presence of the imperialist forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries in the region has resulted in escalating of tensions and ethnic-religious conflicts. By the same token any intensification of the military operations in the region, including military aggression against Iran, will result in even higher tensions and intensification of flames of war and the bloodshed in the entire region. It is hard to find any humanist and peace loving force who is not worried about the present situation and the outcome of the political-militaristic confrontations, especially in the "barrel of gunpowder" of the world – the Middle East. Avoiding new conflicts is an important and indispensable part of the struggle to force out the alien military forces from the Persian Gulf and the Middle East region and establish peace in this high tension region of the world.

Once again, the Tudeh Party of Iran warns against the rising tensions and the issue of Security Council resolution against Iran. We believe the world public opinion in its vast majority, and definitively, are against a new war and military intervention in the internal affairs of Iran. Considering this fact, and by conducting negotiations and employing all the possible means for peaceful settlement of the present problems, the way must be opened for protecting the national interests of Iran and the peace in the region and the world.

Unlike some of the political forces in Iran, Tudeh Party of Iran does not believe that the external intervention in Iran is the way to achieve freedom and democratic rights for Iranian people. The experience of other countries in the region is a definite witness to the invalidity of these positions.

The struggle of our people against the dictatorial regime of Velayate Faqih (the Governance of the Supreme Religious Leader) is an internal affair and will succeed only with the participation of all the Iranian progressive social and political forces. The Iranian people have the political maturity, the determination and the necessary awareness for solving their problems of any kind. Any aggressive intervention in the internal affairs of such a country will face a definite defeat.

The struggle of new against the old, modernism against conservatism, knowledge against superstition and democracy against dictatorship have found deep and growing roots in our society. External intervention, especially militarily, will have a negative effect on its growth rate and in the final analysis will help the reaction and the dictatorship. It will set the region more on the path of fire and bloodshed

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The statement of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran on the occasion of the Iranian New Year-21 March 2006

(From "Nameh Mardom" Editorial 16th March 2006)

Last year was the year in which a comprehensive raid by the ruling tyranny in order to capture all the strongholds of the popular movement towards reform was implemented and the voice of nation for freedom and justice was shattered. The year started with the 9th presidential election campaigns, and open and organized effort of armed and semi-armed forces of the tyrants to put an end to the "reform commotion". The process which started with parliamentary election a year before, in which thousands of the candidates were eliminated because of thinking different from the mainstream, opened the road to take over the presidential office and to move towards stabilizing the tyrant regime through bringing a bunch of puppets of the Velayat-e Faqih (supreme religious leader) and other top officials of the tyrant to the judicial system of the country. Continuing the pressure and suppression on a great number of activists, on student movement and on journalists, shutting down newspapers, and raiding internet sites and arresting their staff, all and all imposed such an "election" to our nation that took place under a completely abnormal and anti-democratic atmosphere. Last year marked the end of 8 years of policies and plans of state reformists led by the government of Mohammad Khatami. Over those years our party consistently stressed that the policy of compromise and concession, and "active serenity", that at the end will only help to preserve the structures and the power levers of the tyrants, will sacrifice a unique historical opportunity for the narrow interests of those who cannot part themselves from the reactionary webs of "preserving the Velayat-e Faqih". Those policies also resulted in disjuncting of significant parts of the social forces and disappointment of people in the

reform process. Thus, the 9th presidential election developed such conditions under which the ruling tyrants could, through an organized move and unprecedented use of military and police forces and massive vote rigging, make a dark minded figure win the elections; someone who until a few months prior to elections was barely heard of. Khatami's government admittance that vast vote rigging and fraud occurred during the first round of elections was a great blow on the efforts of reformists and helped the reactionary forces to push their plans forward.

As predicted, with Ahmadi Nejad's military-security administration coming to power, suppression exacerbated, one of the most recent instances of which was the savage raid of regime forces to peaceful demonstrations of women on March the 8th, and attacking the university students protesting against demagogue plans of reactionary government.

Despite the significant increase in the price of oil which resulted in considerable increase in the revenue of the government, the living standard of the majority of the society is still falling rapidly. Millions are unemployed, particularly the nation's youth who are continuously entering the job market. Lack of necessary educational resources proportional to the society's needs, raising inflation and significant oppression are grounds for escalation of social anomalies, especially widespread drug addiction and prostitution. Also in the past year, the pressure on the working class of Iran and wide-ranging attack of tyrants to crush any shape of workers efforts to organize and systematically struggle against the ruling reaction, escalated. The broad attack of the regime's intelligence services on the members and friends of Tehran Transit Union, its activists and their families in the recent months, and arresting and torturing hundreds of militant workers are indications of the serious fear of reactionary regime of the organized struggle of Iran's working class, and regime's fight to take back what working class achieved in the recent years through its struggle. Many of the Tehran Transit Union activists are still being tortured in prisons to

“confess” to what they haven’t committed, and their families are being constantly threatened by the torturers. Widespread internal and international effort to free these imprisoned militants is an immediate task that all freedom-lovers and progressive forces must strive for in a united and coordinated way.

We look forward to the New Year while beside the very concerning internal developments, international affairs and particularly the events in the neighbouring countries of Iran have faced our nation with important and dangerous issues. The military attack by the US and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan by the US and its allies, and recently the US administration’s threats, including George Bush’s, to use all and every means to stop Iran’s nuclear program, had developed very critical conditions in the region. The adventurous policies of ruling reactionary forces, hiding behind demagogue anti-American slogans to justify and implement their oppressive policies internally, finally led to sending IAEA’s report on Iran’s nuclear programs to the Security Council of the UN. Irrational policies of Iran’s statesmen was such that even those who wanted to help, like Russia that was in favour of solving the problems through negotiations, were stuck in a very difficult international position. Reviewing Iran’s file in the Security Council and the efforts of the US and its allies to pass a resolution to impose economic sanctions against Iran is undoubtedly not in the best interests of Iran. While pointing out the serious dangers from warmongers in the US and Europe that threaten our nation, we have repeatedly insisted on the principle of détente and avoiding any shape and form of conflicts. The proper way for Iran to gain the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy does not have to go through filing our report with the Security Council and intensifying international conflicts. Once again, we raise our concerns about the current trends of developments, and express our strict opposition to interfering and intervening policies of Imperialist states. Painful and horrific experience in Iraq and the disaster of killing of tens of thousands innocent civilians, and being at the verge of a

bloody civil war while under military occupation, should be a serious warning to all freedom-loving and progressive forces of Iran. The support of some of the Iranian forces for the threatening policies of Imperialism is nothing but their disbelief in the rights of Iranian people and our national interests.

Our party sincerely wishes that the lessons of the unfortunate event of the 9th presidential elections serve as a ground for progressive forces to reach to the proper understanding of the basic weakness of the movement, i.e. unorganized social forces, and discord and division between progressive forces. We certainly hope that the lessons learned open the road to reach to a common struggle platform and to forming a united anti-dictatorship front against the reactionary regime of the Velayat-e Faqih. The struggle that began eight years ago with participation of 20 millions of Iranians in the historic referendum of 2 Khordad (22 May 1997, 7th presidential elections, when Mohammad Khatami was elected) in which the selected candidate of the Velayat-e Faqih was rejected by the people, is a struggle for basic developments and changes in the bureaucratic, politic, economic and social system of the country that will surely continue despite all the retreats and hardships. Velayat-e Faqih regime cannot suppress the legitimate demands of the majority of the population for democracy, freedom and justice. Our party strongly believes that with organized effort of all the believers in the liberation of the country from the claws of tyranny, we can resist against the conspiracies of the reaction.

We would like to wish that the Iranian New Year be the year to rejuvenate the popular movement and to open the road to freedom, peace, democracy and social justice.

CC of Tudeh Party of Iran
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