

## Voice of America News

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Russia stood up for Iran

Why Moscow is displeased by introducing new sanctions against Tehran

Russian Foreign Ministry called the new sanctions against Iran imposed by the United States, as "unacceptable and contrary to international law."

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, is "seriously complicates the way to a constructive dialogue with Tehran," and "continuous build-up of sanctions has long gone beyond the solution of non-proliferation objectives in the context of Iran's nuclear program."

Earlier, the U.S. and the UK and Canada imposed additional sanctions against Iran's oil and financial industries. In particular - and this is an extremely important point - the sanctions imposed on Iran Central Bank, which, according to some experts, can cause substantial damage to the economy. Similar measures are being prepared to take and the European Union.

The reason for these actions in the West was the recent publication of a new IAEA report, which concluded that Iran's nuclear program has a military component. Russia then expressed regret that the actions of the UN atomic agency impact "xoposho orchestrated media campaign aimed at further aggravation of the situation surrounding Iran's nuclear program."

The Russian way

Russia is not the first protest against the pressure that the U.S. and its allies have on Iran, trying to get disclosure of all details conducted by the Iranian republic works in the nuclear field. In most cases, takes a similar stance, and China.

However, Beijing's actions may be largely explained by the fact that China is largely dependent on the supply of Iranian oil. The economic ties between Moscow and Tehran have a much smaller scale, in fact, Iran and Russia de facto competing against each other on the world hydrocarbon market.

Why Moscow is acting this way? Professor Vladimir Sazhin, an expert of the Institute of Oriental Studies, describes the three main Russian actions: first, Iran remains an important regional player and Moscow is trying not to give Tehran a pretext to carry out anti-Russian policy, and secondly, Moscow hopes that the crisis over Iran's nuclear program will be allowed on its script, which will allow Russia to obtain economic preferences in trade with Iran: Third, Iran - an important bargaining chip in relations between Russia and the United States and Europe.

"But I would not say that Russia is so unequivocally supported by Iran - says Sazhin, - Moscow does not want Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. In this position of Moscow and the West are the same. However, Russia feared that if too much pressure on Iran, it can take unpredictable actions, and there is some truth - the Iranians, for all trade-offs must save face. "

Kenneth Kattsman (Kenneth Katzman), expert of the Council on Middle East policy (Middle East Policy Council), reminds us that Russia has not blocked any UN Security Council resolution against Iran, and Tehran has refused to sell air defense systems S-300.

The effectiveness of sanctions

The UN Security Council adopted resolutions four times, which has imposed sanctions on Iranian individuals and legal entities involved in the nuclear program. Similar measures of economic pressure on Iran - regardless of the Security Council - have made many other states, including the United States.

Ted Galen Carpenter (Ted Galen Carpenter), senior research fellow at the Cato Institute (Cato Institute) believes that the recent statement by Russia indicates that, according to Moscow, the previous sanctions have failed.

"Russia, like China, is convinced that efforts to isolate Tehran even more - are counterproductive. - Says Carpenter. - Sanctions will likely not make the ruling regime in Iran to give up, which he considers a high priority and a matter of national pride. "

However, Vladimir Sazhin sure that the sanctions have had a major impact on the economy of Iran. "Even Iran's leaders and top officials sometimes admit this. It is true they all stated that sanctions would "harden" the Iranian people and the housekeeper. - Tells Sazhin - but in recent months many buyers of Iranian oil simply could not afford it, because legal financial channels have come under the sanctions. Even so, there is complexity! ".

Recall that Russian diplomacy has insisted that talks with Iran were on the principle of "gradualism and reciprocity." Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov recently said that "sanctions against Iran in the track we feel exhausted. (...) To threaten sanctions and the more air strikes - is the possibility of a negotiated solution to alienate rather than to approach it. "

What should I do?

Experts disagree over what should be done to Iran began to cooperate with the IAEA and fully disclose all the details of its nuclear program.

According to Kenneth Kattsmana, despite the fact that thanks to the efforts of the international community isolated Iran seriously, he does everything to keep its nuclear program. "The Iranians are willing to suffer in order to save her - said the expert. - Iran to help relatively high oil prices. Until the oil expensive, Iran will be able to withstand all that pressure. "

Ted Galen Carpenter is even more pessimistic: "The only way to stop Tehran - is the use of military force. However, this step can be incredibly dangerous and destructive for the entire region. This could be a classic example of how the treatment is more dangerous than the disease. "

Vladimir Sazhin - expert stresses that this is his personal opinion - believes that until 2013, when Iran's presidential elections, the chances that Tehran will change its position, can be considered negligible.

Here is a quote. November 4 The Supreme Spiritual Leader of Iran Ayatollah Khamenei said (according to the text of the speech posted on the website of the Iranian Embassy in Russia): "The Islamic Republic of Iran came out the winner of each of these plots, and the United States each time defeated. The same scenario is repeated in the future. If in each area to determine the correct route to take hard decisions and begin to move in this direction with a firm belief in the Almighty power, the enemy will probably be forced to retreat, just as it was November 4, 1979 during the sacred defense, and during the imposition of sanctions. "

According to the Iranian Constitution, the president has far less authority than the Supreme Spiritual Leader. Ayatollah Khamenei is the Supreme Religious Council, is the chief of the armed forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, controls the security forces, one has the right to declare war, appoint heads of the Foreign Ministry and the Supreme National Security Council, which is responsible for the fundamental principles of foreign policy.