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## THE HILL'S Congress Blog

Where lawmakers come to blog

### The Big Question, Sept. 30: Will new sanctions on Iran work?

By Tony Romm - 09/30/09 03:25 PM ET

*Lawmakers from both parties are readying a tough new round of sanctions against Iran in the wake of news that the country has a second secret nuclear facility.*

*But will the sanctions work? If not, what will America and other countries do next?*

**Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.)**, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said:

I think they better work. Its important that we have tough sanctions and that they work and that Iran get a very uniform unified message from the world as to the opposition against what they are doing.

**Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.)**, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said:

Well I don't think we should be announcing what we are doing ahead of time; I think we have to go step by step. There are very serious sanctions that one can bring that really bite and already there is tremendous economic unrest and pain in Iran. So, I think that you just have to measure this very carefully. You have to see if you have the Russians with you, and you've got to make some judgments how you can bring them. Historically, when we have been united in a consensus as we were on South Africa in the 1980s we had a powerful impact. So, I personally believe that if you start really ratcheting down financial moves, movement of capital, travel, you can start, and there is already clearly a level of upset in Iran, just by virtue of what we saw in the elections. I don't think anyone can predict and I don't want to get into the sort of the what-ifs of the back end, I think you need to go step by step very carefully.

**Dr. James Zogby**, president of the Arab American Institute, said:

Iran is a danger, principally to its neighbors in the Gulf. But sanctions will not work unless imposed by the United Nations, and, therefore, have the stamp of international legitimacy and buy-in. Beyond that, the rest is just so much wasted effort, useful only for domestic political posturing. Congress should give the Administration time to work through the maze of diplomacy, and not force their hand.

**Herb London**, president of the Hudson Institute, said:

Unless there is universal compliance, sanctions will not work. Even if the Europeans deny Iran refined petroleum, Venezuela has already indicated it

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is prepared to address the shortfall.

Is the United States prepared to engage in a naval embargo and risk hostilities with Russia for one or even Venezuela? I seriously doubt it.

If there is a way to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions, it lies with the military option. However, I doubt this administration will opt for it. Instead President Obama will talk endlessly about deterrence, a condition that may or may not influence Iranian imperial ambitions and its theological assumptions.

**Christopher Preble**, director of Foreign Policy Studies at The Cato Institute, said:

The Iranian government must be convinced that it does not need nuclear weapons to deter attacks against the regime. It is likely to push for an indigenous nuclear-enrichment program for matters of national pride, as well as national interest.

The Obama administration should therefore offer to end Washington's diplomatic and economic isolation of Iran, and should end all efforts to overthrow the government in Tehran, in exchange for Iran's pledge to forswear a nuclear weapons program, and to allow free and unfettered access to international inspectors to ensure that its peaceful nuclear program is not diverted for military purposes.

While such an offer might ultimately be rejected by the Iranians, revealing their intentions, it is a realistic option, superior to both feckless economic pressure and stalemate, or war, with all of its horrible ramifications.

### Comments (9)

I think President Obama's plan to reach out to the world is a good thing an it will work.

BY **ANN** on 09/30/2009 at 16:44

I agree with Christopher Preble.

BY **GD** on 09/30/2009 at 16:47

@Mr Preble: I have a better suggestion. Suggest that IF they so badly need nuclear energy for civilian purposes, then we will be more than happy to build it for them and station the facility with OUR engineers and security team. After all, we only have to look at a Liberal to recognize that no one can say "no" to a free handout. Their refusal to obtain their stated goal would reveal their nefarious intent globally, so when the attacks follow, they will be justified.

BY **SAVANT NOIR** on 09/30/2009 at 18:20

@Ann. Ann, it always seems you and I agree on most everything, but I disagree with you here (if I am understanding you correctly). To illicit world support against Iran I do agree with...to lay down at the feet of the Muslim world in the hopes that then they in return will love us, is foolhardy. To disarm our country and betray our allies to hope the world loves us in return and will follow suit...is foolhardy.

BY **SAVANT NOIR** on 09/30/2009 at 18:23

(I can't believe I am saying this) John Kerry made sense. Now it leaves me with the question of: "is he speaking logically to cover up Obama's ineptitude, or is he really speaking what he believes?"

BY **SAVANT NOIR** on 09/30/2009 at 18:30

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, OBAMA STYLE:Going to the table to "talk" when you have no will, and you have given up the leverage that Russia could have provided, will now prove futile. It will also allow Iran to continue apace the development of its nuclear weapons.Obama gave up a powerful element when he backed off the Europe based missile shield without concessions from Putin.

<http://pacificgatepost.blogspot.com/2009/09/obamas-blunder-on-iran.html>Additional sanctions will prove will achieve nothing other than hurt Iranians who will "blame" the West.--

BY **JAMES RAIDER** on 09/30/2009 at 22:21

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