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Iran Test Fires 2 Advance Missiles

U.S., Allies Consider Tougher Sanctions

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WASHINGTON -- Iran test-fired two of its most advanced missiles Monday, one day after successful testing of short-range missiles. The move comes as the U.S. and its allies consider tougher sanctions against Iran.

The White House calls the missile tests provocative and said it's time for Iran to come clean about its nuclear program.

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Iranian state-run media report the Revolutionary Guard test-fired two advanced mid-range missiles, both of which are capable of reaching Israel, some parts of Europe and U.S. bases in the Middle East.

"I would lump any of these into the provocative nature with which Iran has acted on the world stage for a number of years," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

The missile tests come on the heels of the revelation that Iran has been developing a secret, underground nuclear facility.

"The Iranians want to make clear that they're not going to be constrained by the West and they have options to defend themselves should the stick that the West is wielding against Iran loom that much larger," said Justin Logan, with the Cato Institute.

The U.S. and its allies said Iran must open its nuclear sites to U.N. inspectors or face tough, new sanctions. Diplomatic talks between Iran, the U.S. and other Western powers take place Thursday in Geneva.

"It's time for Iran to come clean. It has taken actions that are in violation of it's obligations," said State Department Spokesman P.J. Crowley.

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Iran has said it will allow inspections of the newly disclosed site; the question, analysts said, is whether it can convince the West that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

Iran said the missile tests were a pre-planned military exercise and had nothing to do with the newly revealed nuclear facility.

U.S. intelligence estimates said that Iran is one to five years away from nuclear weapons capability, but hasn't yet made the decision to build a nuclear weapon. It is also developing ballistic missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead, but that work has reportedly slowed.

Iran's last known missile tests were in May when it fired its longest-range solid-fuel missile.

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