

24 June-22 September 2009

June 24: In a meeting with the chairman of the Council of Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, Barys Batura, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said bullying powers want to recreate unilateralism of the past. "Iran and Belarus should cooperate and with their presence on the international scene do their fair share in managing global developments," he told. Batura said that his country is prepared to establish a parliamentary forum among NAM members. "Tehran and Minsk hold a common standpoint in terms of NAM playing a more active role in the international arena", concluded Batura.

June 25: Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in a letter to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon criticized his meddling

in Iran's internal affairs. Referring to the interference of Western countries in the aftermath of the 10th presidential elections, Mohammad Khazaei said the UN chief had taken a hasty stance regarding the vote, IRNA reported. "The stance is tantamount to interference in the domestic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran ", he complained. The envoy said over the past few days Western officials have raised unjust claims on the elections, which are considered meddling in Iran's internal affairs and the UN chief too, following those officials had endangered his credibility in the eyes of free and independent nations.

June 26: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez voiced support for his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying the CIA is instigating

post-election conflict in Iran. Chavez said that the "imperial hand" of the US Central Intelligence Agency and its European allies had provoked post-election unrest in Iran.

June 27: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday said his new government would be more decisive in its policies toward the West. "Without doubt in the new (presidential) term the government will have a more decisive and powerful approach towards the West," he told a meeting of judiciary officials in Tehran. Ahmadinejad said that the June 12 presidential election in Iran which has strengthened his government also marked the end of liberal democracy and liberal thought. Addressing a national gathering of judicial officials he said, "The Iranian nation favors dialogue and wisdom as well as constructive and

cultural interaction," IRNA reported.

June 28: After demonstrators broke into the Iranian Embassy in Stockholm, Tehran summoned the country's envoy for an explanation. After a crowd of 200 protesters attacked the mission, Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Ambassador Christofer Gyllenstierna to express its strong protest over the incident. Gyllenstierna voiced his deepest concerns about "the ugly incident", adding that he would contact his Foreign Ministry immediately and inform Tehran about the outcome. Meanwhile, the Swedish Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, expressed deep regret in a telephone call to Iranian officials an hour later. Fifty police officers and an ambulance were sent to the embassy building in the Lidinge archipelago outside the city. Organizers of the demonstration said a few of

CHRONOLOGY

the protesters were injured in clashes with the embassy's security officers. Police arrested one person. According to AP, a smaller group of the protestors, believed to have been Iranian expatriates, broke away from the crowd and forced their way into the Embassy.

June 29: Iran is not planning to downgrade diplomatic ties with Britain or any other European country, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said. Talking to reporters during his weekly press briefing in Tehran, Qashqavi said Iran is not interested in "diplomatic adventurism", but stressed that all countries should respect the internal dynamics of Iran and not interfere in its affairs. He said Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and Miliband had discussed the issue and the latter had

reassured the former that his government has no intention to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs. "During the phone talk Miliband stressed that Britain's intention was not to interfere in Iran's domestic affairs," Qashqavi said.

June 30: An informed Iraqi source said that the five Iranian diplomats who were captured by US forces in the Iraqi city of Irbil would be released soon after being handed over to the Iraqi government. The five were abducted when US forces broke into the Iranian Consulate in the Kurdish city, some 350 kms north of Baghdad, on January 11, 2007. "As Baghdad believes the kidnapped diplomats have not committed any offence, therefore, they would be released as soon as possible," the Iraqi source told IRNA,

speaking on anonymity condition.

July 2009

July 1: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks interaction with the outside world. Addressing officials and staff of the Intelligence Ministry after his landslide victory in the presidential elections, he noted that Iran is determined to make use of all its capabilities to eliminate global hegemony. The president lauded the sincere services of the ministry in dealing with the unrest in the aftermath of the disputed mid-June elections. "I believe that the Intelligence Ministry is home of the devoted people, sympathizers of the Islamic Revolution and the Supreme Leader. "The ministry should adopt new approaches to the rapidly changing global developments, he stressed. The Islamic Revolution believes in fundamental changes in

management, culture and values to be able to play a leading role in global developments, he underlined.

July 2: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said youths are pushing Iran toward the highest peaks of science and technology. The president was speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of a new laser research center in Tehran. The center will conduct laser-related studies and produce equipments used in medical, agricultural and microbiological surgeries. President Ahmadinejad, accompanied by the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, Minister of Research, Science and Technology Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi and Vice President for Science and Technology Affairs Sadeq Aqazadeh late Thursday, inaugurated the center and visited its different sections.

CHRONOLOGY

The center will focus on laser sciences and technologies. Lauding the self-esteem of Iranian young generation, Ahmadinejad said, "Undoubtedly, the youth working with self-confidence in such research centers are able to push Iran toward the highest peaks of science and technology."

July 3: In a meeting with the visiting head of Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Chairman of Japanese Parliament's Foreign Commission Taro Kono added that boosting such cooperation between the two countries would further consolidate regional stability. Pointing to Japan's dependence on energy obtained from the Middle East, the Japanese parliamentarian said it was important for his country to see security and stability in the region.

He also called for expansion of bilateral ties in the fields of politics, economy and culture. Boroujerdi, for his part, congratulated his Japanese counterpart on the election of Yuki Amano as the new chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Referring to efforts continued by the two countries to boost ties, he said the present global economic crisis provided a good opportunity for Japanese companies to invest in Iranian oil, gas and petrochemical projects.

July 4: An Iraqi official expressed gratitude to Iran's envoy in Baghdad for Iran's participation in civil and developmental projects in Kurdistan. Governor of the Iraqi Kurdish city of Suleymaniye, Dana Majeed, in a meeting with Kazemi Qomi lauded Iranian companies for building

bridges, railways and tunnels.

"Iranians have proved their mettle and are trustworthy among the local officials," Majeed added, noting that Iranians have been invited to take part in some other projects in the region. "Iraqis, and especially Kurds, will not forget what the Islamic Republic has done for them. They consider themselves indebted to the Iranians," IRIB quoted the official as saying.

July 5: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that Russia will continue cooperation with Iran. "Iran is an important partner for us. We communicate, and we have a whole range of shared problems on which we cooperate very productively," Medvedev said in an interview on the eve of the US President Barack Obama's Moscow visit and the G8 summit in Italy, RIA Novosti reported. "We will continue to talk to Iran as a

neighbor, and as a foreign policy partner. "During the interview the Russian president said, "Russian-American relations under the previous US administration degraded significantly; even though the personal relationship between the countries' leaders was good, inter-governmental relations were very difficult." On one of the main disputes between Russia and the United States in recent years--Washington's plans for an interceptor missile base in Poland and tracking radar in the Czech Republic--Medvedev said Moscow's opposition remains unchanged. The US says the missile shield is needed to defend against a potential Iranian strike, while Russia says the plans would harm its national security. Obama arrived in Moscow for talks set to focus on strategic arms reduction, as well as a range of bilateral and international issues including the US missile

CHRONOLOGY

shield planned for Central Europe, the financial crisis, and the upcoming G8 summit.

July 6: Iran is ready to take “decisive” action if Israel attacks its nuclear facilities, a senior Iranian parliamentary official said. The remarks by Alaeddin Broujerdi, head of the parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy, came after US Vice President Joe Biden signaled that Washington would not prevent Israel from attacking Iran. “Both the US and Israel are well aware of the consequence of any such error of judgment,” Broujerdi told reporters at the Iranian Embassy in Tokyo.

July 7: Amid growing relations between Iran and Qatar, the Emir of Qatar Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani has condemned attempts to undermine two-way

cooperation. Qatar will not allow anyone to damage its relations with Iran, he said in a meeting with the visiting Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani. Iran has always supported Arab nations, in particular the oppressed Palestinians, Fars news agency quoted him as saying. Larijani said Tehran and Doha are determined to promote cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields. “Iran and Qatar share common views on regional issues including the Gaza case and Israel’s attack on Lebanon,” he said.

July 8: The Group of Eight (G8) industrialized countries have set a September deadline for Iran to cooperate and accept negotiations on its nuclear issue. “We sincerely hope that Iran will seize this opportunity to give diplomacy a chance to find a negotiated solution to

the nuclear issue, “the G8 leaders said in a statement after they concluded the first day of their annual summit in the central Italian town of L’Aquila. They urged Iran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency. “We strongly urge Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA and to comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, without further delay.”

July 9: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that sincere services to the masses are the key to conquering the peaks of national aspirations. He made the remark in a meeting with the High Housing Council attended by governors general from across the country. Affection for the people, sympathizing with them and serving them are factors that will help consolidate the Islamic Revolution and its values and goals and undermine the basis for the

emergence of hegemonic systems, he added.

July 10: Tehran has voiced concern over the deadly clashes in China’s northwestern province of Xinjiang where up to 150 people have been killed. In a telephone conversation with Secretary General of the 56-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Iran’s Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki voiced Iran’s support for “the rights of Chinese Muslims”, Press TV reported. Mottaki was expected to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi over the issue.

July 11: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Tehran is preparing another package of proposals on major political, security and international issues. Speaking at a joint press conference with his visiting Omani counterpart

CHRONOLOGY

Yusuf bin Alawi, Mottaki said Iran has “clear stands” about various developments. “We are preparing a new package of proposals that would be considered as the basis for Tehran’s negotiations on major regional and international developments,” he said. Mottaki also commented on the final declaration of the recent summit of the eight major industrial states (G8) in the Italian city of L’Aquila. “Iran has received no new messages from the G8 summit,” he said. World leaders issued a joint declaration on Friday after the G8 summit, expressing “serious concern” about post-election violence in Iran and urging a negotiated resolution over Tehran’s nuclear issue.

July 12: Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem-Shirazi, in a statement, condemned the massacre of Muslims in

Xinjiang region in China, which left more than 180 people dead. The ayatollah said reports about the genocide and suppression of Muslims in China’s Xinjiang have worried all Muslim and peace-loving nations across the world. The industrial Xinjiang region recently turned into the scene of fiercest conflicts between Muslim Uighurs and the racist Han group. “Although the Chinese government refers to the unrest as an ethnic one, suppression of Muslims by Beijing and closure of mosques indicate that there are conspiracies against Muslims in the region,” he said.

July 13: Turkey’s Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said o Turkey wanted Iranian gas to be transported to Europe via the planned Nabucco pipeline despite US opposition. European Union governments and Turkey signed transit

agreements in Ankara for the EU and US-backed Nabucco pipeline, which aims to reduce Europe's energy dependence on Russia by transporting gas from the Caspian and Middle East through the planned pipeline from 2014. "We desire Iranian gas to be included in Nabucco when conditions allow," Erdogan told a gathering of Nabucco partner countries and regional countries, including Iraq and Georgia.

July 14: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki underlined the need to use NAM's capacity for overcoming international crises. Addressing the 15th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministerial meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, Mottaki said, "UNSC is the main body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. However, in some cases, the council has

taken executive measures and in some others it remained silent". He noted that in dealing with issues that do not necessarily pose any threat to global peace and security, the UNSC has increasingly resorted to Chapter VII of the UN charter. "In most cases, sanctions imposed by the council are inappropriate and have breached human rights," he said. The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that reforming the UNSC into a more democratic, transparent and accountable institution is important. Mottaki said that removing the gap between the haves and have-nots, and prejudices is a must. "In the world where the majority are poor and the minority are wealthy, instability and insecurity will arise and hinder advancement," he said. He noted that for building a safe and prosperous world, all developing countries need to be supported by a just

CHRONOLOGY

economic system.

July 15: An Iranian passenger plane has crashed in northwest Iran, near the city of Qazvin, and all on board are presumed dead. Qazvin Police Chief Hossein Behzadpour said all 168 people on board have been killed in the crash. The Tupolev plane went down near Jannatabad Village near Qazvin at 11:33 a.m. local time on Wednesday after it took off from the Iranian capital Tehran to fly to Yerevan in Armenia, Press TV reported. "The 7908 Caspian flight crashed 16 minutes after its takeoff from the International Imam Khomeini Airport," said Iran's Civil Aviation Organization spokesman, Reza Jafarzadeh. "The aircraft all of a sudden fell out of the sky and exploded on impact, where you see the crater," a witness told Press TV from the crash site. Deputy Governor of

Qazvin Sirous Saberi said military forces are searching for the plane's black box to determine the cause of the crash.

July 16: China responded to the written complaint of Iran's Islamic Human Rights Committee about recent incidents in Xinjiang province in a letter through its embassy in Tehran. In this missive, China emphasized paying attention to the role of civil institutions and independent media in respecting human rights and avoiding military and security measures against the dissidents. China hailed the stance of Iranian officials and lawmakers vis-a-vis the recent incidents in Xinjiang and stressed Beijing's determination to respect the rights of its Muslim citizens and refrain from pursuing a biased attitude toward ethnic groups. The letter notes that

the root cause of the unrest is a clash between two groups of laborers in a factory in June 25 and it has nothing to do with sectarian and ethnic clashes. It also said that some foreign groups have been trying to take advantage of the incident to provoke people to create tumults, damage public property and create a split from the central government. China said more than 100 news agencies covered the recent developments, but some of them did not reflect the truth and distorted the realities.

July 17: Iran's Guardians Council (GC) published a "detailed report" on the country's latest presidential election, which shows how complaints about the results were dealt with. Earlier in July, the council's Spokesman Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei announced that the report would be published to resolve any ambiguities that

some people may say were surrounding the election process. In order to "thwart the plots" and to "promote unity" the report on the election is published for the first time, the council said in a preface to the report. The report includes full details about the complaints handed to the council about the election results. The 90-page report also includes the council's correspondence with presidential candidates who had complaints about the results.

July 18: The West should close Iran's nuclear case and cease hostility toward Tehran. The new chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, looked forward to a settlement of the standoff with western countries over the country's nuclear program. It was Salehi's first official comment since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad named him to replace

CHRONOLOGY

Gholamreza Aqazadeh after 12 years as head of the body leading Iran's nuclear activities.

July 19: Amid efforts to settle the dispute over its nuclear program, the Foreign Ministry spokesman shed some light on Tehran's new package to be proposed to the West in the coming weeks. "The proposed package will definitely include Iran's nuclear issue based on an international approach," Hassan Qashqavi told. He said the "comprehensive and updated" package aims to pave the way for a more "fluid interaction" with the West. "We cannot talk about the nuclear issue without first addressing international disarmament. We cannot also discuss a Middle East without nuclear weapons without (first) concentrating on the 200 plus nuclear warheads of the Zionist regime (Israel)," the spokesman added.

Iran is finalizing proposals which will be presented to the international community soon with the aim of helping address international problems in the key of economic, cultural, social and moral domains. Qashqavi pointed to the terrible global economic crisis and said, "Iran's proposed package will suggest solutions to the economic crisis based on principles enshrined in the Islamic economy."

July 20: Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that action based on "wisdom is a primary need of today's Muslim society" and the elite have an important duty in this regard. Addressing groups of people and officials on the auspicious occasion of Mab'ath, he said, "Today, the most essential need of an Islamic society is following the message of Be'that (Prophet Mohammad's

(PBUH) divine assignment to prophet-hood) and setting rationale and wisdom as the yardstick, domination of ethics and setting legal discipline as the base. In this regard the elite and senior officials shoulder an important task". Rationalism and thought constitute the most important aspect of the message of Be'that, the told the audience. "The first thing the Prophet Muhammad (PUBH) did was to have rationality govern society because promotion of ideology and intellect is the solution to all problems. " Referring to ethical training, discipline and training as the second and third hallmarks of the Be'that message, Ayatollah Khamenei said the nation owes its honor and dignity to its success in overcoming difficulties and passing hard tests over the past 30 years.

July 21: Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani on Tuesday called for

meaningful unity among the Iraqi people to help settle the country's problems. He made the call in a meeting with the Secretary of the Iraqi National Congress Ahmad Chalabi in Tehran. According to the Majlis Press Bureau and Public Relations Department, the speaker highlighted recent developments unfolding in Iraq and said "Iraq is now experiencing a very sensitive situation and its people are in dire need of unity and solidarity." The Iraqi people have demonstrated that they are willing and able to manage their own affairs, he said. Post-war reconstruction is a top priority of the Iraqi masses, he said, adding that there is no doubt that the Iraqis and their government can overcome the existing problems armed with understanding, awareness, solidarity and cooperation, the speaker told the visiting Iraqi dignitary. "Iran will continue to support Iraqi unity,

CHRONOLOGY

sovereignty and integrity, “the senior lawmaker noted. “The Islamic Republic spares no effort to help the Iraqi people rebuild”the war-battered country. Chalabi briefed Larijani on the recent developments in his country and commended Iran’s support for Iraq after former dictator Saddam Hussein was overthrown and later executed in 2003. Saddam’s Iraq invaded Iran in the fall of 1980. The bloody fighting lasted for eight years in which more than a million people were killed on both sides. Tehran officially announced that the conflagration started by Iraq cost the Iranian economy an estimated one trillion dollars. The war reparations to be paid by Baghdad are still to be worked out.

July 22: A terrorist attack in the Iraqi city of Khanaqin

reportedly claimed the lives of six Iranian pilgrims. More than 30 others were injured. “The attack took place around 11:00 pm local time Tuesday night, “the governor of the border city of Qasre-Shirin Bahram Teimouri told. “The terrorists using guns attacked the Iranian pilgrims who were traveling to Baghdad, “he added. According to the official, the injured were hospitalized in a Khanaqin hospital and are reported to be in stable condition.

July 23: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that independence and integrity is a permanent feature of the public cause and all capabilities should be employed to promote this lofty goal. Addressing a ceremony to unveil the first locally-produced heavy-duty diesel engine in Amol (Mazandaran

province) Industrial Township, he said that Iranians deserve to be a leading player in the world, IRNA reported. "In addition to belief in God and the Infallible Household of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), we should also have access to science and technology to advance the national agenda and economic development," he noted. Describing courage, creativity and innovation as among the key factors in the nation's success and development, Ahmadinejad noted that the spirit of self-reliance is gaining ground in the country and promises a bright future. Commending all those involved in designing and manufacturing the heavy-duty diesel engine, the president said that Iran had joined the top 12 countries in the world by implementing the project. "The project is still in its infancy. Experts and engineers should do their best to produce

its parts inside the country," he noted.

July 24: Bushehr nuclear reactor could start operations by the end of the year, Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said. There is the likelihood that the Bushehr nuclear plant could conduct test-runs and then go online by the end of the year, however, it would not be capable of producing electricity by that time, he said in an interview with the Duesseldorf-based business daily *Handelsblatt*. He stressed the construction of the Bushehr reactor was in full compliance with international regulations and under the complete control of the IAEA.

July 25: At least 16 people were killed and 21 others injured when an Aria Air plane crash landed in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Friday evening. The plane en route to the holy city from Tehran crashed as it

CHRONOLOGY

was trying to make an emergency landing at the destination at about 18:00 (1430 GMT) Friday, Fars News Agency reported. The aircraft, an Ilyushin Il-62 jet, had 160 passengers and crew on board. Earlier reports had put the number of deaths at 30 and the number of injured at 20. Nine Kazakhs also were among the 16 killed when the airliner overshot the runway and crashed into a perimeter wall.

July 26: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said no nation can expect to maintain its independence and dignified status on the world scene in the absence of a strong and effective presence in international developments. Making the remark in a meeting with senior envoys and heads of Iran's diplomatic missions in Europe, he said "nations cannot gain victory so

long as they play according to the rules of the game written by the big powers". He referred to Iran's nuclear program as only one example, saying that the hegemonic powers, feigning confidence-building gestures, tried to interfere in Iran's internal affairs and then lumped it as an 'axis of evil' after undermining its self-confidence.

July 27: After the postponement of a death penalty for a brother of the Jundollah ringleader, Tehran rejected the prospect of a prisoner exchange saying it does not deal with terrorists. Head of the judiciary in the restive southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan Ebrahim Hamidi denied negotiations had been held for the exchange of Abdulhamid Rigi, the death row brother of Jundollah's top man, Abdolmalek, Presstv

reported. "No talks have been held for the exchange of Abdulhamid because we (Iranian authorities) don't recognize the group to enter into negotiations with them," the official argued. He, however, stopped short of saying that the senior member of the terrorist group would be exchanged for, and declared that Abdulhamid would be executed soon. "It is expected that Abdulhamid Rigi be turned over to us in the near future and thereafter we will execute the [death] sentence," the judiciary official added.

July 28: The new head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEO) said that the Bushehr nuclear power plant in southwestern Iran will be launched by September. A member of the Parliament's Education and Research Commission Amir Taherkhani told IRNA that during a meeting with the commission

members, Ali Akbar Salehi has promised that the country's first nuclear power plant will start producing electricity by mid-September. "Salehi is seeking to expand AEO's activities during his tenure which includes the construction of more nuclear power plants and the training of more experts and skilled personnel in the field," the legislator added. The Bushehr plant, which is situated near the Persian Gulf, is Iran's first nuclear power generation facility. The construction of the 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant originally started in the mid-1970s by Siemens of Germany but was abandoned after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Iran and Russia, after reaching an agreement on nuclear cooperation in 1992, signed a contract in January 1995 to finish the construction of the plant, the completion of which has been delayed on several

CHRONOLOGY

occasions.

Russia's atomic agency chief Sergei Kiriyyenko said recently that the plant would start operations by the end of the year.

July 29: Russia launched a joint naval exercise in northern Iran to enhance the safety of marine transportation in the Caspian Sea. The two-day drills 'Regional Interaction, Key to Safe and a Clean Caspian Sea' started on Tuesday in the port city of Bandar Anzali in northern Iran, Mehr News Agency reported. According to the head of Iran's Ports and Shipping Organization, Ali Taheri-Motlaq, the exercises are being held within the framework of international conventions such as those guiding the prevention of sea pollution. Over 30 advanced vessels

and two helicopters are taking part. "Russia is participating in the maritime exercise with its own vessels to help fight water pollution," he added. This is the first time the two neighbors have held a joint exercise of the kind. The maritime boundary and legal regime of sea have yet to be demarcated among Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan--the five countries bordering the strategic waterway.

July 30: Lebanese MP Hassan Fadhlallah said Iran plays a key role in the region. Fadhlallah said Iran plays an 'outstanding' political and strategic role in the region and backs popular movements seeking to liberate Palestine, which is among the high priorities of Arabs and Muslims. "The

potentials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have turned the country into an exemplary model of development for the world," he said. Iran's role in regional developments is evident in its support for the Palestinian and Lebanese nations' struggles against the Zionist regime. "Iran's support for regional countries is not considered interference in their affairs," he said.

July 31: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the dream of enemies about seeing a rift between the chief executive and the leader will never come true. "My relationship with the leader is of an ideological nature and he is like my father," added the president, who was addressing the 11th scientific and research meeting of university professors. Recently, some people naively strove to mar

the relationship between the government and the leader, and inculcated the notion of a crack between the two by raising tumults. This is while they do not know that our relationship with the leader transcends political and administrative norms. The efforts of ill-wishers will not produce any results. "

August 2009

August 1: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal says his country and the United States are "working closely" on the Iranian nuclear program. "Today, our two nations are working closely to emphasize the need for Iran to adhere to its obligation under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty".

August 2: The deputy foreign ministers of Iran,

CHRONOLOGY

Afghanistan and Tajikistan discussed commonalities to enhance cooperation among the three Persian-speaking countries during a meeting in Tehran. A statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the meeting was the second coordination session of the three countries' deputy foreign ministers. The meeting was held within the framework of the trilateral agreements signed by the president and foreign ministers of these countries, the statement added. The deputy foreign ministers also reviewed the agreements stipulated in the 14 documents signed by the three states and discussed different grounds of trilateral interest for common cooperation, including campaign against drug trafficking, terrorism

and other organized crimes. During the meeting, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikh al-Islam recalled the common historical and cultural features of the three countries. He said, "Following the endorsement of trilateral cooperation documents in the last five years, fortunately the legal bases for trilateral cooperation have been established to a large degree and the volume of trade and economic ties among the three countries has increased and come parallel with the three countries' good political ties."

August 3: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei endorsed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's

presidency at a ceremony held in Tehran. It was the tenth presidential confirmation in the history of the Islamic Republic, which was established in 1979. The Judiciary chief, the Majlis speaker, the Guardian Council secretary, MPs, Assembly of Experts representatives, other Iranian officials, and some foreign ambassadors attended the ceremony.

August 4: In a high-profile meeting with Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said in Tehran on Tuesday, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said establishing security in the Persian Gulf waterway is extremely important for regional countries. The Leader said Persian Gulf countries should cooperatively provide security in the Persian Gulf

region and strengthen their solidarity.

He called the Persian Gulf one of the most strategically-important waterways in the world, adding that its security has become a global issue.

August 5: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was sworn in as president for a second term on Wednesday in the parliament. With his hand on the Holy Quran, Ahmadinejad swore to fully observe the Constitution, to uphold the people's rights and defend their liberty, to administer justice, and to avoid despotism. He was sworn in by Judiciary Chief Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi. Ahmadinejad was reelected president in the June 12 presidential election.

August 6: Vice-President and Head of the Atomic

CHRONOLOGY

Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Ali-Akbar Salehi, will come to the Majlis next week to provide a report on his organization's activities. Salehi, who was recently assigned to the top job by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, will brief the Majlis Energy Commission on Tuesday about AEOI operations in connection with the civilian nuclear program, IRNA reported. He attended a meeting of the Parliament's Education and Research Commission last week and told the lawmakers that the Bushehr nuclear power plant would become operational by October. The Bushehr plant, in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, is Iran's first nuclear power generation facility. The nuclear plant, which was built in a joint project with

Moscow, is under the surveillance of its Russian fuel suppliers and inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The plant will run on Russian fuel. Earlier, Salehi, a former envoy to the UN nuclear agency under the government of President Mohammad Khatami, said he hopes to find a resolution to end the dispute over the country's nuclear program. "Legal and technical discussions about the nuclear case have ended. As the IAEA has repeatedly announced there is no room left to keep the case open," he said.

August 7: Iran and the West have to begin confidence-building measures aimed at restoring mutual trust, a

German Middle East scholar said. Konstantin Kosten of the Berlin-based German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) said the issue of breach of trust between the two sides is "in fact the most challenging question of all." He said he "believes there is not enough trust on both sides. There is a need for confidence-building measures. "Kosten stressed the Iran-G5+1 talks can provide a proper forum for fence-mending measures. Talks could focus on regional security as both sides have "common interests" when it comes to the region, the expert said, citing past meetings between the US and Iran on Iraq's security situation. "These talks could be used to strengthen confidence-building measures to find ways to deal also with

critical issues," he added.

August 8: Iran and Iraq have agreed to accelerate the demarcation of their borders to avoid the likelihood of conflict in the future. Tehran's envoy in Baghdad, Hasan Kazemi Qomi met Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari and both sides called for the demarcation of land, maritime and coastal boundaries between the two neighbors, Presstv reported. After the end of the bloody Iran-Iraq war (1980-88) in which a million died on both sides, the two governments have held several meetings on border issues. Initial talks led to an agreement signed in 2008 that pledges to revive the demarcations laid out in a pre-war agreement known as the 1975 Algiers Accord

August 9: Foreign Minister

CHRONOLOGY

Manouchehr Mottaki expressed his views on the perceived role of nuclear weapons in advancing foreign policy. In a speech at the ministry, Mottaki said nuclear weapons had not helped world powers put an end to global crises in their favor in the past two decades, Press TV reported. "Looking back 20 years we see that the world faced a variety of crises in which global powers had a role to play. They (big powers) had arsenals of the most dangerous weapons that ultimately did not come to their help," he said. "One of our arguments is that nuclear weapons have lost their effectiveness. If they could solve anything, why did they not save the Soviet Union (a major nuke power) from disintegration? Why did the

weapons not prevent US failure in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine? " The minister recalled that the popularity of western countries among the people of the Middle East had dramatically plummeted in the last half century

August 10: After years of detrimental relations between Iran and Bahrain, in the past two years ties have ameliorated, said Iran's ambassador to Bahrain. Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated that the final stages of negotiations between Iran and Bahrain regarding Manama's investment in the Iranian port of Assaluyeh and the importation of gas from Iran will be closed by the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "Currently the joint economic committee of

Iran and Bahrain which was in a 'committee' level back in 2005 has advanced to 'high commission' level with eight sub-committees and specialized workgroups developing and implementing economic, political and security issues of the two countries," Abdollahian said.

August 11: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has expressed readiness to help the flood victims in neighboring Turkey. In a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul, he extended his condolences to the Turkish people and government over losses caused by the flash floods in northwestern Turkey. At least 31 people died in the inundation. Ahmadinejad hoped the affected areas would be

rebuilt soon "so that the victims can find solace, Gul appreciated Ahmadinejad's support described the gesture as an indication of "brotherly ties" between the two neighbors. The Turkish leader briefed his Iranian counterpart on the developments in flood-hit Istanbul.

August 12: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran should find an alternative to the development theories floated by the big powers and help guide the world out of the present impasse. "If we want to compete with the dominant order for development, we are not going to get anywhere for another thousand years because the origins of the theory are elsewhere and the rules of development have been written by them

CHRONOLOGY

(dominant powers),“ the president told university professors in Tehran on Thursday, ILNA reported. “Iran has all that is necessary for a leap toward growth and advancement, but what prevents the nation’s leap is the absence of a clear definition of the ultimate objective. “He added that “According to the western theory of development, all efforts are aimed towards dominance of liberal democracy, free markets, preferring moral relativism, non-interference of moral values into social relations This concept is not sustainable and has a bleak future, but all attempts are focused on this path.” Ahmadinejad added “According to this theory US society should have reached the peak of social development. To paint the

world in their own vision they (big powers) have created a plethora of international bodies with their own cultural insight and want other countries to fall in line with them.”

August 13: Iran’s foreign minister said his country opposes an impending deal to expand the US military’s presence in Colombia. Manouchehr Mottaki spoke on in Bolivia on a tour of Latin America, where Tehran has cultivated closer ties--especially with leftist-led nations. “The Islamic Republic of Iran is against foreign military bases anywhere in the world,” he said. Colombian officials say the proposed 10-year lease agreement would give US forces access to at least seven military bases to boost anti-drug efforts.

Bogota says the deal would not push the number of American troops and civilian military contractors beyond 1,400--the maximum currently permitted by the US law. Speaking through an interpreter, Mottaki compared it to US policy toward the Middle East. "The hegemonic policies (of the United States) in Latin America and Asia have completely failed," he said. "That's why we think all countries that want their freedom should work together to arrive at true justice in international relations."

August 14: Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi condemned on Friday disrespect toward Iranian pilgrims by Saudi Wahabists and called for an immediate end to such insulting behaviors. "Saudi

Wahabis' disrespect toward Umrah pilgrim shows that they are not qualified to keep the custody of the Two Holy Mosques," the ayatollah told a number of pilgrims at Imam Reza (AS) shrine in Mashhad. Most of Iranian pilgrims who return home after a visit to Mecca and Medina complain of Saudi police's misbehavior

August 15: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Saturday officially appointed Hojjatoleslam Sadeq Larijani as the new Judiciary chief. "Now that Ayatollah Hashemi Shahroudi's term in the Judiciary has ended... according to the Article 157 of the Constitution I appoint you as the Judiciary chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote

CHRONOLOGY

in his appointment decree. Sadeq Larijani is the son of Ayatollah Hashem Amoli and the brother of Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani. Until he was appointed to the new position he served as a theologian in the 12-member Guardian Council.

August 16: Iran's ambassador in Afghanistan said Tehran is worried about the developments that could come on the heels of the Aug. 20 presidential elections. "We have received signals that after the vote some (negative) developments might occur in Afghanistan. This is cause for concern. We have held talks with Afghan officials, the UN and even some European ambassadors so that the elections are held as planned, "Fada Hossein

Maleki told ISNA. He did not elaborate, nor said what is Tehran's real cause of concern in the war-torn neighboring country. "The election is decisive in determining the future of the country. Iran believes that the Afghan government should hold the election as scheduled so that its people can determine their own fate. Of course, some countries are worried that certain powers want to convey that due to the insecurity and insatiability in that country the vote should be delayed.

August 17: Georgia's new ambassador to Tehran called for the expansion of bilateral ties. Georgy Janejqaava expressed his dissatisfaction with the current level of relations,

saying that the two countries have great potential for expanding cooperation. "We seek an all-out expansion of ties with Iran in economic, cultural and even sports fields," he said. He pointed to the visit to Tbilisi by Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, after the August 2008 military conflict between Georgian and Russia over South Ossetia and described Tehran's policy toward the disputed Caucasus region as "just". The envoy defended his countries ties with Europe and said "To find out if the West has been a good ally for us or not, we must take a look at last year's conflict during which five top European officials visited Tbilisi and clearly supported us. This prevented the Russian army from moving on the

Georgian capital. "He noted that "German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Mottaki had supported Georgia."

August 18: Iranian foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, has called on Baghdad to extradite agents of the terrorist anti-Iran Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO). Mottaki told Iraq's ambassador in Tehran, Majid Sheikh, that considering the friendly relations between Tehran and Baghdad, the MKO presence in Iraq is not appropriate. "Iraq's security and progress is a source of joy for Iran. Tehran believes that those trying to fuel insecurity in Iraq are committing a great sin," the minister said.

CHRONOLOGY

He then called on the Iraqi government to extradite those MKO agents “who are wanted by Interpol “to Iran so that they can face trial for the crimes they have committed against the Iranian people over the past three decades. “Tehran would like those MKO agents who have committed serious crimes and who are wanted by the Interpol to be sent back to Iran, “Mottaki stated. In late July, Iraqi forces, who have recently gained control of their country’s security from the US-led occupying forces, took over MKO’s main training camp, known as Camp Ashraf, north of Baghdad after armed clashes with the terrorist organization’s agents. About 11 MKO agents were killed in the clashes and some 300 more

wounded. Iraqi forces also suffered some casualties.

August 19: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called Iran-Syria unity the symbol of resistance in the region. “The result of this unity is evident in the Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq issues and also in the entire region,” he said during a meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran. The Syrian president traveled to Tehran on Wednesday to congratulate Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his re-election. Commenting on the current situation in the Middle East, Ayatollah Khamenei said the tide has turned in favor of the resistance and

thus the resistance front should take advantage of this opportunity.

August 20: A European diplomat said Iran has allowed the International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to inspect the sensitive nuclear reactor at Arak for the first time in a year. The inspectors were able to visit Arak last week. It was the first time that they had been authorized to do so for a year, the diplomat told. The source further stated Tehran has also allowed the UN nuclear watchdog to step up surveillance of another key site at Natanz. The containment and surveillance measures were updated as the agency wanted, the source added. Meanwhile IAEA spokesman, Ayhan Evrensel, refused to

comment on the matter.

August 21: Iran's ambassador in Kabul said Tehran is ready to hold talks with the US and other countries on Afghanistan if the Obama administration adopts a unified and single approach toward the Islamic Republic. Welcoming President Barack Obama's overtures for normal relations, Fada Hossein Maleki criticized the US approach to post-election developments in Iran, Press TV reported. Unfortunately after the victory of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad we saw inconsiderate interference by the Americans (in Iran's domestic affairs), Maleki complained. The White House had still to adopt a single and unified approach toward Iran, he noted. It is natural that if a unified

CHRONOLOGY

approach is adopted, our officials would review it. There are many issues in Afghanistan on which we can cooperate with other countries.

August 22: Iran agreed with United Nations inspectors to grant greater monitoring of Tehran's uranium-enrichment facility at Natanz as well as a nearly completed heavy-water reactor, according to officials briefed on the talks. The accord breaks a months-long impasse between Iran and the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency. Officials involved in the diplomacy hope Iran's decision could signal a greater willingness by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government to cooperate with the West. President Barack Obama

has set a late September deadline for Tehran to respond to an international offer to negotiate on the future of Iran's nuclear program, or face a new round of economic sanctions. "It's definitely a move by Iran to show cooperation, and so to keep the engagement ball in the air," said Michael Adler, an expert on Iran's nuclear program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Iran's Natanz facility south of Tehran has rapidly increased its ability to produce nuclear fuel in recent months. An IAEA report from June said Tehran is operating 5,000 centrifuges at Natanz, with an additional 2,000 set to come online in coming months. UN officials said the expansion of work at Natanz has tested the IAEA

monitors' ability to inspect the site. The IAEA has requested from Iran both more cameras and a more-unified work plan.

August 23: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad felicitated Muslim nations and leaders on the advent of the fasting month of Ramadan. He expressed hope that the Ummah would draw on the spiritual and moral opportunities during the holy month to promote harmony and brotherhood and underpin understanding and peace among themselves.

August 24: An official at the Iranian Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) voiced Tehran's readiness to build a terminal for Iranian passengers in Iraq. "Given the fact that 6,000 plus Iranian pilgrims travel to Iraq every day, the

chamber is able and willing to build and operate a terminal inside Iraq for our passengers," ICC deputy chief Ebrahim Tehrani told. He called for the improvement of services provided to the Iranian in the neighboring Arab country and urged the Iraqis to improve the quality of their transportation. "The ICC is ready to cooperate with the Iraqis and share its experience and services with them."

August 25: Iran took a swipe at Germany for proposing sanctions against Iran's energy sector and said such threats won't prevent the country from reaching its legitimate goals. "Experience has shown that sanctions are futile and won't prevent Iran from pursuing its rights," Foreign Ministry

CHRONOLOGY

Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said at his weekly press conference on Monday, Press TV reported. "Many countries have condemned the anti-Iran sanctions," he added and criticized recent remarks by German Chancellor Angela Merkel regarding energy sanctions against the Islamic Republic if it does not reverse its nuclear program. He recommended the German leader to be "realistic" about Iran.

August 26: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki arrived in Istanbul on Tuesday morning to discuss development and security in Pakistan with other senior officials from 20 countries. The participants of the Friends

of Democratic Pakistan (FDP) are to discuss issues related to security, development, energy, education, health, and private sector expansion. Mottaki joined his Pakistani counterpart Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Turkey's Ahmet Davutoglu in the meeting. The talks co-chaired by Pakistan and Turkey will focus on supporting the stabilization of South Asian country in the fight against extremism.

August 27: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said the West's double standards toward regional issues have not worked. Addressing a conference of the Friends of Democratic Pakistan (FDP) in Turkey, he supported the initiative to hold the meeting and

said Iran will effectively contribute to its goals. He said helping Pakistan is tantamount to contributing to the stability and security of the region. The key to eliminating extremism in the region is to have a transparent and comprehensive look at the roots of the problem and mobilizing meaningful cooperation of all countries to that end, he added. The minister said selective approach towards regional issues and double standards is simply not a workable strategy to ensure peace and stability in the region. He highlighted the need for collective regional cooperation in the campaign against terrorism, drug smuggling and augmenting economic development. Mottaki referred to Iran's initiative to hold a trilateral meeting

with Pakistan and Afghanistan, attended by presidents of the three countries, and said regional problems demand regional solutions.

August 28: Germany warns Iran that western powers will take more serious steps to impose energy and financial sanctions on the country, if its nuclear talks are not resumed. If there is no positive answer by September, we will have to consider further measures, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at a press briefing with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Press TV reported. Her remarks come as the US, Britain, France and Germany are expected to urge Russia and China, in a meeting on September 2, to consider a fourth round of UN sanctions against Iran if

CHRONOLOGY

talks on the country's nuclear program fail. Western leaders, including US President Barack Obama, had earlier declared that they would give Iran until September to resume its nuclear talks.

August 29: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Comoran counterpart, Ahmed Abdullah Sambi, discussed ways of improving bilateral ties and expediting implementation of two-way agreements. In a telephonic conversation, Ahmadinejad said, Ties between the two countries are brotherly and constructive. Iran faces no restrictions for expanding mutual bonds in various sectors with the Muslim people of Comoros and it is fully prepared to transfer its experiences to this

country. Sambi, for his part, congratulated Ahmadinejad on the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan and his reelection, calling for further expanding bilateral relations.

August 30: The International Atomic Energy Agency handed over its last report about Iran's nuclear activities on Friday in which it said Tehran has allowed better camera surveillance of its nuclear activities at the Natanz enrichment facility. The IAEA report also said Iran allowed inspectors to revisit the Arak heavy-water reactor site this month after barring access for a year. "In this inspection many of the plots were foiled," Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's representative to the

Vienna-based agency, told the ISNA news agency. He said during the time that Iran was not obligated to allow inspections of the Arak reactor many "false reports" were released. Iran reported to the IAEA that the complex was 63 percent complete and the reactor vessel would be installed in 2011.

September 2009

September 1: Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili announced here on Tuesday that Tehran has prepared an updated package of proposals for the nuclear talks with the 5+1 group. "The Islamic Republic of Iran... is ready for cooperation to address shared concerns in the international arena," Jalili told reporters in Tehran. He said that Iran's new

package of proposals seeks to promote "justice and peace and progress" in the world.

September 2: Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili on Tuesday said that Iran's package of nuclear proposals has been finalized and would be presented to Group 5+1. "The updated package includes political, economic and security proposals along with issues of international concern," he told a press meeting, *alam.ir* reported. He did not provide details. The top security official expressed hope that in the new round of negotiations with the so-called G5+1 an agreement would be reached on understanding and cooperation. Jalili referred to the delays in the negotiations between Iran

CHRONOLOGY

and six powers and noted, "Subsequent to the presentation of Iran's previous proposals, one round of talks was held in Geneva. The delays emerged largely due to some problems among the main parties to the negotiations, including the conflict in Georgia, the global economic crisis, US presidential elections."

September 3: Iran is not going to produce a nuclear weapon any time soon and the threat posed by its atomic program has been exaggerated, the UN nuclear agency chief said in a published interview. Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said there was no concrete evidence that Tehran has an ongoing

nuclear weapons program, Reuters reported. "But somehow, many people are talking about how Iran's nuclear program is the greatest threat to the world. In many ways, I think the threat has been hyped," he told the specialist Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The West claims Iran wants to develop a nuclear weapons but Tehran rejects the charge, saying its uranium enrichment program is a peaceful way to generate electricity.

September 4: Secretary of Iran's National Security Council (SNSC), Saeed Jalili, said Tehran will present its new nuclear package to the Group 5+1 next week. Iran is ready for a new round of talks with the six

countries -- the United States, Britain, China, France, Russia Germany, on its nuclear program. This week Iran announced that it has prepared an updated package to offer to the group and "remove common concerns" about its nuclear program. "As we have announced, we are ready for fresh talks", the top nuclear negotiator told reporters. Jalili said the talks had been delayed due to "problems on both sides".

September 5: Iran's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, has said the implementation of the additional protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is not legally binding since about 80 countries have refused to sign it. Demanding that Iran sign or implement the protocol is a

violation of international law, although Iran voluntarily implemented the protocol for more than 30 months, Soltanieh stated in a letter to IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. Soltanieh also stated that Iran has answered all questions and cleared up all ambiguities about its nuclear activities, and thus the implementation of the nuclear safeguards agreement in Iran must take a normal course. In his letter, the Iranian envoy also accused the United States of feeding "forged" intelligence to the IAEA that claims Iran had studied ways to make atomic bombs.

September 6: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that Iran and Venezuela should fortify the newly established

CHRONOLOGY

independence front. "The Islamic Republic of Iran and Venezuela should increase cooperation... to further strengthen the newly established independence front," he said in a meeting with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Tehran. The Supreme Leader pointed out that the U.S. has recently suffered a number of setbacks in many parts of the world, and this shows that the United States is a power in decline and the world is changing. The U.S. has paid dearly for its setbacks in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Palestine, but its failure in its efforts to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran has been even greater, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

September 7: China has

called on the international community to step up diplomatic efforts over Iran's nuclear program, saying imposing more sanctions on Tehran would be counterproductive. "We believe that under the current circumstances, we should... step up diplomatic efforts and realize the resumption of talks with Iran at an early date," AFP quoted Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Jiang Yu as telling reporters on Tuesday in Beijing. She expressed China's hope that various sides would take advantage of the current favorable chances and beef up diplomatic efforts to resume the international talks on the issue as soon as possible.

September 8: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

announced that representatives of the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) have been invited to Tehran to receive the updated package of nuclear proposals drawn up by Iran. "The proposals we have prepared seeks to identify important challenges facing humanity and basic directions for a durable solution to those challenges," Ahmadinejad told a press conference. Last week Iran announced it has prepared its updated package of proposals which will be presented to the six major powers this week. The package includes solutions to global nuclear disarmament, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and economic cooperation.

September 9: Foreign Minister Manouchehr

Mottaki presented Iran's updated nuclear package to the ambassadors and representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany in Tehran. The package was submitted to the ambassadors of France, Russia, Germany, and China, the British charge d'affaires, and the Swiss ambassador to Tehran, whose country represents U.S. interests in Iran. Mottaki said the new package has been drawn up based on current international developments and the events that have occurred since Iran presented its first nuclear package to the 5+1 group last year.

September 10: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has defended his decision to cooperate with Iran to develop nuclear energy in

CHRONOLOGY

his country. In an interview with the French Le Figaro newspaper, Chavez described Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as an "ally and a friend. During the interview which came three days after he signed agreements to strengthen cooperation during a visit to Tehran, the Venezuelan president said "I thank him (Ahmadinejad) for the technology transfers from Iran to Venezuela. We signed a new agreement last week in Tehran. "He continued "Iran has the right to develop nuclear energy as do France and many other countries and why not Venezuela. " Western states and Israel (the only nuke power in the Middle East) claim Iran is pursuing a covert nuclear

weapons program. Iran -- a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) -- has denied the claims saying its nuclear program, which is under tight inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is peaceful and for generating electricity.

September 11: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that International Quds Day is the symbol of the Iranian people's unity. "The enemy has always sought to undermine the Quds Day ceremony, but again this year, the Iranian nation will honor this day with marches in Tehran and the rest of the country and many of the Muslims of the world will follow this

nation and revive the name of Quds once again," Ayatollah Khamenei told worshippers in a sermon at Friday prayers in Tehran. People should be careful that certain individuals do not use Quds Day to organize gatherings to create divisions among the people, because the Iranian nation can be a leader in supporting Palestine only when they are united, he noted.

September 12: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu have called for the expansion of security cooperation between the two neighbors. Iran and Turkey are determined to fight terrorism and extremism, Mottaki said during a joint press conference with Davutoglu in Tehran.

"Groups like the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) and PEJAK (Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan) must know that the messages exchanged between the two countries on terrorism are very clear and the two countries' borders are not a place to damage their ties," Mottaki stated.

September 13: The European Union said it is planning to hold talks soon with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator on new proposals made by Tehran to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany. "We are in contact with Saeed Jalili's office to arrange a meeting at the earliest possible opportunity," EU foreign policy head Javier Solana said in a statement in Brussels, DPA reported. Jalili is head of Iran's

CHRONOLOGY

Supreme National Security Council. "I have received the Iranian paper and am studying it," Solana said. "We are all committed to meaningful negotiations with Iran to resolve the international community's concerns about their nuclear program."

September 14: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has advised Britain to rectify its policy toward Iran. "The Iranian nation will not allow anyone to interfere in its internal affairs, and we hope that the British government will make amends for its mistakes," Ahmadinejad said here on Sunday during a meeting with the new British ambassador to Tehran, Simon Gass, in which the British diplomat submitted

his credentials to the president. Iran has accused the British Embassy in Tehran of provoking the unrest that occurred after the June 12 presidential election, a charge denied by the British government.

September 15: After major world powers called for a meeting with Iran to resolve the country's nuclear case, Turkey says it is ready to host the talks. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who was wrapping up a two-day visit to Tehran, said Sunday that talks between the sides should start as soon as possible. Iran's new package of proposals included appropriate grounds for holding talks on leading international issues, Davutoglu said in a

meeting with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili.

September 16: Tehran criticizes British opposition to the Iranian Navy's collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in bringing security to international waters. Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called on secretary general Efthimios Mitropoulos to "help resolve such obstacles and provide appropriate facilities" to the Iranian Navy. "The security of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman should be spread to the Gulf of Aden," Mottaki said in a Monday meeting with Mitropoulos in Tehran, IRIB News reported. He also added that the Islamic Republic is ready to help establish security in international

waterways.

September 17: Iran is ready to hold "constructive talks" with six world powers next month after it submitted new proposals regarding its nuclear program, the Russian foreign ministry said. "The Iranian 'package' reflects a desire to have 'deep and constructive talks' with the Six," foreign ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said in a statement. The ministry said Iran's outreach to world powers was "positive and encouraging." "The important thing now is to not break the favorable dynamic we are observing and to use it to obtain real negotiations," the statement said.

September 18: The IAEA has refuted claims that it has concluded that Iran is

CHRONOLOGY

on its way to produce nuclear weapons, saying such reports are "baseless." The UN nuclear watchdog declared in a statement on Thursday that it had no proof that Iran has, or once had, a covert atomic bomb program, Reuters reported. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reaffirmed that the allegations claiming that the agency was sitting on undeniable evidence that Iran has been pursuing a military nuclear program were "politically motivated and baseless."

September 19: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki says the Obama administration's new Middle East peace initiative has no chance of success. The comment came as Barack Obama's point

man in the Middle East, George Mitchell, is extending a peace mission in the region.

September 20: Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, has said Iran's updated package of proposals, which was recently presented to the six major powers, has opened a "new window of opportunity" to the West to settle its differences with Tehran. In an interview with the Washington Post, Soltanieh also said the dual track of carrot and stick policy is "counterproductive".

September 21: The Majlis Energy Committee plans to review the Iran-Venezuela gasoline agreement, MP

Hamid-Reza Katouzian said. The agreement for Iran to buy gasoline from Venezuela will be reviewed due to reports that Venezuela's gasoline is expensive and of low-quality, the chairman of the Majlis Energy Committee told. Some companies that export cars to Iran have actually advised the country to use Iran's regular gasoline rather than Venezuelan gasoline, Katouzian added.

September 22: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly along with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who will leave Tehran tomorrow. According to the latest figures officially announced by a United Nations spokesperson, 89 heads of

states, three vice presidents, 36 heads of governments, 8 deputy prime ministers, 55 foreign ministers and 23 deputy ministers are to take part in the 64th annual meeting of the UN. The meeting focuses on such issues as ways of establishing international peace and security, enhancing development, human rights, humanitarian aid, promoting justice and international laws, disarmament, controlling drugs, preventing crimes and confronting different forms of international terrorism.