

# Iran

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As Washington tries to bolster international cooperation over how to deal with Iran's nuclear program, the domestic push for congressionally mandated sanctions has been spearheaded by lobby groups such as the Israel Project, the neoconservative think tank Center for Security Policy and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, known as S. 970, amends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to directly address the nuclear issue, and would impose sanctions on Iran and countries doing business with it.

The House version of the bill, H.R. 1400, sponsored by the late Rep. Tom Lantos of California, passed the House by a vote of 397 in favor and 16 against.

The American Israeli Public Affairs Committee has used its muscle to shape and mold certain divestment bills in state legislatures across the U.S., and in the absence of explicit support from the White House, it is, according to William A. Reinsch, president of the National Foreign Trade Council, the major group lobbying for this bill.

The bill, which has 70 co-sponsors almost evenly divided between Republican and Democratic lawmakers, would subject Russia to specified energy cooperation prohibition against Iran unless Moscow suspends nuclear assistance and transfers of conventional weapons and missiles to Iran, and until Iran dismantles its nuclear

enrichment-related programs.

Instead of engendering more Russian cooperation on Iran, S. 970 will most likely weaken Moscow's willingness to cooperate with the U.S. in blocking Iran's nuclear efforts.

"This is a case where the president is engaged in the delicate process of getting both allies and not-so allies — China and Russia — to cooperate with us on sanctions," Reinsch said at an April 11 roundtable discussion.

Beating their companies over the head with a stick, which is what this bill will do, is not what we need.

In 2006, Congress withheld 60 percent of U.S. foreign aid to Russia because of its continued assistance to Iran's nuclear and ballistic missiles programs.

Furthermore, by codifying an executive order, S. 970 removes the flexibility that the president would need to offer incentives or to respond effectively in the event of positive developments from Tehran.

Phillip H. Gordon of the Brookings Institute told a Senate Finance Committee hearing April 11 that while he supported many measures of the bill, some of them were "blunt instruments" that would further undermine international cooperation with Washington.

Section 8 of the bill imposes sanctions on U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies, which could lead the countries in which those are companies are based to chal-

lenge the bill before the World Trade Organization.

"Most countries, even among our closest allies, reject the extraterritorial application of U.S. sanctions, and they are willing to act to defend the principle that countries may not impose their own foreign policy priorities on other countries by taking action against their firms," Gordon said.

U.S. sanctions have had a minimal effect, mainly because Russia and China have not stopped assisting Tehran in its nuclear goals, but also because Iran has already survived through three decades of unilateral U.S. sanctions.

Despite the 2007 National Intelligence Estimate saying that Iran had suspended its alleged nuclear weapons program, the consensus among most Washington Beltway insiders is that Iran's advancement in the nuclear fuel cycle will allow it to develop nuclear weapons if it so chooses, and that is a possibility that is unacceptable.

Three rounds of UN Security Council sanctions on

Iran have not produced the desired effect. In early April, Iran rejected European overtures to halt its uranium enrichment program in return for incentives.

Iran does not trade its rights in return for incentives, government spokesman Ghalam Hossein Elham told reporters, according to the Associated Press.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran doesn't need incentives from Europe to obtain its rights," he said, adding, however, that Iran was open to dialogue with Europe over its nuclear program.

The Washington view on sanctions against Iran — which critics describe as a substitute for real diplomatic engagement with Tehran — has analysts agreeing on the problem but diverging over how to confront it.

"It is obvious that the limited multilateral sanctions now in effect will not have their desired effect. Then what? If war is off the table, submission and tribute will remain," said Danielle Pletka of the neoconservative New

American Enterprise Institute.

"This leaves us with the hope that harsher and more effective economic sanctions can raise the cost to Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons and change the calculus of decision-makers in Tehran," she said.

Senior officials from the major powers dealing with Iran — the U.S., France, Germany, Britain, Russia and China — were to meet April 16 in Shanghai to discuss what the next steps should be against Iran.

Khody Akhavi writes for IPS/GIN.

## LEGAL NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board (SNWIB)**  
**Youth Workforce Services**

The Southern Nevada Workforce Investment Board (SNWIB) announces the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to competitively award Workforce Investment Act Title I Youth Formula funding in the Southern Nevada Workforce region which includes the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City and the counties of Clark, Lincoln, Nye and Esmeralda. Proposals are sought that outline programs designed to assist at-risk, eligible youth ages 14-21 in the Southern Nevada Workforce Region.

The RFP will be available for electronically on or about May 12, 2008 on the SNWIB website at [www.snwib.org](http://www.snwib.org). A hardcopy of the RFP is available for pick up at the SNWIB office located at 1127 S. Rancho, Las Vegas, NV 89102.

There will be an optional Bidders Conference on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the SNWIB office located at 1127 S. Rancho, Las Vegas, NV 89102. The deadline for proposal submission is Monday, June 30, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

All information regarding this RFP including specifications, forms, timelines and any addendums will be available via the SNWIB website at [www.snwib.org](http://www.snwib.org). For questions, please call (702) 638-8750.

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# Crime

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role.

Declaring that the jail situation is unacceptable and costly to local governments, the report offers solutions, such as proposed easier bail requirements for non-violent offenders, developing alternatives to incarceration, diverting people with mental health and drug treatment needs to treatment center and specialists, and providing more money for education, employment and affordable housing. If anything, Petteruti said, she hopes that the report will generate dialogue.

"We want activists, policy makers and politicians to start talking about jails," she said. "A lot of people talk about prisons, but jails are left out of the discussion. We want this report to start a conversation about them."

James Wright writes for the Afro-American Newspapers.

## EMPLOYMENT

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# Analysis

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egon figures prominently in any Democratic plan to amass 270 electoral votes in the fall, the number required to win the White House. Her persistent attempt to claim the unprovable, that she would more easily win in the fall than Obama, faded for reasons beyond her control.

For members of Congress, in this case Democrats, electability begins and sometimes even ends at home.

Which is why it did not pass unnoticed last weekend — with Obama trying to fend off controversy stemming from his former pastor — that a sustained conservative attempt to derail a Democratic House candidate in Louisiana by linking him to the presidential contender had fizzled.

Democrat Don Cazayoux

is "with Barack Obama for a big government scheme" for health insurance, said a television advertisement run by Freedom's Watch. "Their plan raises income taxes and raises taxes on small business."

Cazayoux won anyway, and now holds a House seat in the Baton Rouge area that had been in Republican hands for three decades.

A separate ad, aired by the North Carolina Republican Party, showed Obama and his former preacher, as well as a brief video of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. "He's just too extreme for North Carolina," the narrator says in the 30-second spot.

Because the commercial was aimed at both the Democrats in the state gubernatorial primary, its impact was unclear.

Clinton vowed to press on, planting her flag in West Virginia, site of new week's contest, and announcing plans to visit other upcoming primary states this week.

She said controversies over the delegations from Michigan and Florida must be resolved. "I'm staying in this race until there's a nomi-

nee, and obviously I am going to work as hard as I can to become that nominee," she said.

That sounded fine to Rep. Mike Doyle of Pennsylvania, who is an uncommitted superdelegate.

"I think most of us out of respect for her are content to wait a little longer," he said.

# MVP

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teammates' games." Bryant has said this was his best regular season and his most enjoyable — very different from his feelings last spring. First, he challenged the Lakers to upgrade their roster, then demanded a trade.

Things quieted down and Bryant said all the right things during training camp until Lakers owner Jerry Buss said he would listen to trade offers. That upset Bryant again, but he promised he would focus on basketball once the season began. And so he did.

"I didn't expect this award would come to me," Bryant said. "I'm surprised."

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