

Mazapan Model United Nations Simulation

International Atomic Energy Agency

Topic B: Nuclear weapons and proliferation in Iran

I. Committee Background

The international Atomic Energy Agency was found by the United Nations in 1957 by the name of “Atoms for Peace organization” (IAEA, 2009). This agency works along side with all the member states of the United Nations as well as other associated institutions as the world’ center in relation to nuclear field subjects to encourage secure and passive usage of it. The International Atomic Energy Agency has its headquarter is in Vienna, Austria, and offices in New York, United States; Toronto, Canada; Tokyo, Japan, and Geneva, Switzerland. This committee consists of a work force of 2200 professional members from more than 90 different countries all around the world and whose current Director General is Mohamed ElBaradei. The International Atomic Energy Agency is always in close contact with the United Nations Security Council and United Nations General Assembly. This committee must report annually with the United Nations General Assembly and with the United Nations Security Council when subjects concern security and peace. The purpose or duty of this committee is based on following three pillars: “Safety and Security; Science and Technology; and Safeguard and Verification” (IAEA, 2009).

II. Introduction and Description

The production of nuclear weapons and proliferation around the world has been a topic of vital significance in the International Atomic Energy Agency. There are several countries that have nuclear plants which some are not known for what exact purpose and methods are being used. Some nuclear plants are argued to be used for nuclear investigation and development all in the purpose of non warfare usage, however there is always a suspicion. Data reveals that as of September 24, 2009 there are 31 countries with a total of 436 operating nuclear power plants with an electric net capacity of around 370 GW and 15 countries with a total of 53 nuclear power plants under construction that will have an electric net capacity of around 47 GW. Some of the countries with at least 5 or nuclear power plants are the following: Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea Republic, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States. Some countries that have several nuclear power plants under construction are the following: China, India, Korea Republic, and Russia.

III. History of Topic

The issue of nuclear weapons and proliferation has been a widely discussed one in various United Nations committees such as in the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations World Health Organization, and in the International Atomic Energy Agency. There has always been a fear of some countries having the ability to have nuclear technology and use them for warfare purposes. One country in particular that now has arisen with some issues is Iran. The United Nations has already touched this issue with Iran and their nuclear programs. Its first civilian nuclear programs began in the 1970s with aid from the United States. Although they had aid from the United States, they still established nuclear facilities secretly. Two of these secret facilities that were not revealed until 2002 and 2003 to the International Atomic Energy Agency are the uranium enrichment plant in Natanz and a heavy water reactor near Arak. Iran became a member in opposition to nuclear proliferation called the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1974. Later in 2003, Iran signed the Additional Protocol; nonetheless they still have to ratify it. In 2002 and 2003, the International Atomic Energy Agency made solicitude to Iran to announce all nuclear facilities and materials they possessed in a determined date. However, Iran failed to accomplish the solicitude by the date established which furthered suspicion in how nuclear technology is secretly being used for purposes of nuclear weapons. In some countries such as United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, China, and France have already met on December, 2008 to establish some agreement on the issue of nuclear proliferation in Iran. Earlier meetings have been established to issue this topic. Iran, however, denies all accusations made referring to their misuse of nuclear technology for warfare. To demonstrate their peaceful purposes, Iran has voluntarily suspended their uranium enrichment programs so that International Atomic Energy Agency members can inspect and verify what truly is happening. Iran has also engaged in negotiations with United Kingdom, France, and Germany to reach some type of agreement. However, they have argued that if these negotiations don't prosper than they will reinstate their uranium enrichment programs.

IV. Possible Solutions

Some possible solutions to resolve this issue with Iran can be taken through various methods. One method would be to revise the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that Iran has agreed to in the past. Modifications can be appointed on this treaty to establish harsher sanctions to those countries that break the treaty. Also, more issues concerning the control, security, and surveillance could be added. Such method of control, security, and surveillance would be to institute monthly or yearly inspections to the nuclear power plants by International Atomic Energy Agency members. Another possible solution would be to send monthly or yearly reports to the International Atomic Energy Agency in the progression of each nuclear power plant. Such reporting would be of all decision taken from those in charge of the nuclear power plants.

V. Conclusion

The issue of nuclear weapons and proliferation in Iran has been of grave debate for several years now. There have been treaties signed and inspections made by the International Atomic Energy Agency in order to secure this issue in Iran. However, after various attempts to discover the true issue behind Iranian nuclear programs, it is still a mystery. Suspicions keep accumulating against Iran, and a demand for solving this concern is even greater. The International Atomic Energy Agency must come up with some form of monitoring the Iranian nuclear programs.

VI. Important Questions?

1. Has your country done anything in respect to the nuclear weapons and proliferation in Iran issue?
2. What speculations does your country have against Iran? If it has any.
3. Does your country have a treaty or agreement with Iran concerning its nuclear programs?
4. What possible solutions does your country propose to solve this issue in Iran?
5. Has your country had a similar problem? If so, how was it managed?

VII. Bibliography

- Nuclear Files.org. "NuclearFiles.org". Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. October 7, 2009 <<http://www.nuclearfiles.org/menu/key-issues/nuclear-weapons/issues/proliferation/iran/>>.
- "Nuclear Proliferation". The Economist. October 7, 2009 <http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10608425>.
- "IAEA.org". International Atomic Energy Agency. October 7, 2009 <<http://www.iaea.org/>>.
- "Nuclear power plants, world-wide". European nuclear society. October 7, 2009 <<http://www.euronuclear.org/info/npp-ww.htm>>.