

STATEMENT

October 28, 2004

CONTACT: (202) 661-4675

**USADI Deplores EU's Chamberlainesque Appeasement of Iran
"Grand Bargain" Bolsters Tehran's Nuclear Drive, Undercuts War on Terror by Rewarding
Rogue Behavior**

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran deplores the European Union's blatant appeasement of the terrorist regime ruling Iran and expresses grave concern over the strategic and regional security repercussions of the nuclear "grand bargain" it has offered Tehran.

Striking similar to the Neville Chamberlain's initiative in 1938 to placate the Nazi Germany, the EU's "dream offer" to Iran will only embolden the mullahs to demand even more concessions from the EU and continue their rogue behavior.

Yesterday, the second round of talks with Iran ended with Tehran's rejection of the core demand of the EU's proposal: the immediate and indefinite halt to uranium enrichment. Tehran's tactic of prolonging the so-called diplomatic track was in full display when its nuclear point man Hossein Mousavian told reporters, "Iran could take months to agree to the EU request since the offer was riddled with ambiguities and must be more balanced." It should come as no surprise that an Iranian diplomat present at the talks said, "the negotiations were very constructive for Iran."

Increasingly confident in light of the EU's stance, Tehran has hardened its position in the nuclear brinkmanship it has waged on the world. Now, Tehran appears to be in the driver's seat. As such, EU's reckless approach has bolstered Iran's nuclear arms program.

The initiative has also made a mockery of the war against terrorism. Last week, the details of EU's "carrots and sticks" package were made public. It amounted to the EU putting a "For Sale" sign on its terror list. The EU-3 pledged that it would reward the mullahs' compliance by "continu[ing] to regard the MEK (Iranian Mujahedeen Khalq) as a terrorist organization."

The EU's appeasement of an innately outlaw regime will not defuse the serious nuclear threat posed by Iran. It would also have catastrophic consequences for U.S. security and regional stability by unwittingly facilitating Tehran's nuclear drive.

Engagement is an inherently dangerous policy when it comes to dealing with terrorist, totalitarian states like Iran for it would encourage them to continue their behavior and demand even more concessions when they see their outlaw conduct is economically and politically rewarded.

Intrinsically and structurally incapable of real change, the mullahs' regime lacks long-term stability and legitimacy. Ensuring its permanence has been the driving force of its domestic and foreign policy since coming to power in 1979. Contrary to the contention of Tehran's apologists in the EU, Iran's two-decade long nuclear drive is not a part of a defensive doctrine to deal with a "dangerous neighborhood" or "legitimate security concerns" in the aftermath of the Iraq war. It is a core component of Tehran's strategy of survival and expanding its fundamentalist Islam elsewhere. It stems from the depraved and rogue nature of the regime.

Iran no doubt represents a clear and present danger. The ever-shrewd Europeans may have their commercial or geopolitical interests in mind for not wanting to break their bridges with the mullahs. However, the specter of a nuclear-armed Iran – the most active state sponsor of terrorism – is far too ominous to let appeasers in the EU formulate policy toward Tehran.

###