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Statement by H.E Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to The Seventh NPT Review Conference (Excerpts)

3 May 2005, New York

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. President,

Despite the difficulties that the non-proliferation regime has historically faced, we can generally assess that the NPT has been successful in containing the number of nuclear-weapon States. Without the NPT, there would have certainly been more nuclear weapons in the hand of more countries in the world. This in turn would have put our planet at greater risk of more insecurity and instability.

On the other hand, the Treaty has not been successful in attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament as it has been called for in its Article VI. The continued existences of thousands of nuclear warheads in the nuclear-weapon States' stockpiles, which can destroy the entire

globe many times over, are the major sources of threat to global peace and security. Unfortunately, the limited efforts of the two major nuclear-weapon States right after the Cold War to reduce their nuclear arsenals have faced serious setbacks, particularly in recent years. Nuclear weapons continue to be deployed in other countries; a fact that exacerbates the situation.

Following the major efforts by States Parties to strengthen the Treaty, the 2000 NPT Review Conference welcomed enthusiastically "the unequivocal undertakings by the Nuclear-Weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States Parties are committed under Article VI". Accordingly, the Conference adopted the 13 practical steps for

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Final Declaration from the First Cuba-Venezuela Meeting for the Application of the ALBA (Excerpts)

By: Venezuelan and Cuban delegations

The delegations of Cuba and Venezuela meeting in Havana, Cuba on April 27 and 28, 2005, and inspired by the historical Joint Statement and the Agreement for a Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), signed by Hugo Chávez Frías, president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and President Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and Ministers of Cuba, have drawn up and approved a Strategic Plan for the application of ALBA, in accordance with the Article 3 of the above-mentioned agreement.

The article establishes: "The two countries will produce a strategic plan to guarantee the most beneficial productive complementation on the bases of rationality, exploiting existing ad-

vantages on one side or the other, saving resources, extending useful employment, access to markets or any other consideration sustained in genuine solidarity that will promote the strengths of the two countries."

The Strategic Plan agreed envisages the following among the most relevant actions:

* Inaugurating this year in Venezuela 600 Integral Diagnostic Centers; 600 Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Departments and 35 High Technology Centers offering professional healthcare services free of charge to the Venezuelan population.

* The training of 40,000 doctors and 5,000 health technology specialists in Venezuela within

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Statement by Iran at NPT Conference (from page 1)

the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI. . . .

In a nutshell, the following developments must be fully taken into account in our appraisal:

1. Concerns continue to remain over the research and development of new non-strategic and low-yield nuclear weapons. Commitments need to be renewed to ban developments of new nuclear weapon systems.

2. The principle of irreversibility should be applied to all unilateral, bilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmaments. The nuclear-weapon States should ensure that irreversibility would apply also to their existing measures in removing the warheads from the nuclear weapon systems.

3. Effective steps should be taken to lower the operational status of nuclear weapons to reduce nuclear war. Consequently, there should be a commitment to revise nuclear doctrines, policies and postures to reflect such lowered operational status.

4. Development of national missile defense systems would instigate new arms race in outer space and should be avoided. Fresh efforts should be made within the CD to negotiate the arrangements to prevent arms race in outer space. In the meantime the nuclear-weapon States should make a commitment in this Conference to make every effort to prevent such an arms race.

5. Unilateral nuclear disarmament measures should be pursued vigorously and go well beyond removing warheads from deployment.

6. Submission of more detailed information, inter alga, on the total current numbers of nuclear weapons, the numbers and yield of their warheads, the plan for the deployment and development of missile defense, and the inventories of fissile materials for weapon purposes, are expected from the nuclear-weapon States as a confidence building measure and transparency.

7. The negotiation on a verifiable fissile material cut off treaty needs to be started at the CD within its overall program of work. . . .

The 2000 Review Conference, under the Chapter on "Article VII" of its Final Document reaffirmed that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and agreed that legally binding security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT strengthen the non-proliferation regime, and called upon the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations about it to the 2005 Review Conference.

We regret that the Preparatory Committee was disabled from producing such recommendations. It is abhorrent that during the same period, the dangerous doctrine of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states and threats were officially proclaimed by the United States and NATO.

Therefore, we propose that the Conference would establish an AD-Hoc Committee to work on a draft legally binding instrument on providing security assurances by the five nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, and to submit the draft of the legal instrument to the next Review Conference for its consideration and adoption.

As a first step to address the twin issues of illegality of use and NSA, we believe that as suggested by the NGO community this conference should adopt a decision through which the Conference "decides that the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States shall be prohibited."

Mr. President,

The inalienable right of the States to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes emanates from the universally accepted proposition that scientific and technological achievements are the common heritage of mankind. Nuclear technology has been recognized as a source of energy and a viable option within the sustainable development policies with broad applications in the field of food and agriculture, human health, power generation and industry, water resource management and environment. The promotion of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes has been, therefore, one of the main pillars of the NPT and the main statutory objective of the IAEA.

It is unacceptable that some tend to limit the access to peaceful nuclear technology to an exclusive club of technologically advanced States under the pretext of non-proliferation. This attitude is in clear violation of the letter and spirit of the Treaty and destroys the fundamental balance which exists between the rights and obligations in the Treaty. The Treaty itself has clearly rejected this attempt in its Article IV by emphasizing that "nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination."

Let me make it absolutely clear that arbitrary and self-serving criteria and thresholds regarding proliferation-proof and proliferation-prone technologies and countries can and will only undermine the Treaty. Iran, for its part, is determined to pursue all legal areas of nuclear technology, including enrichment, exclusively for peaceful purposes and has been eager to offer assurances and guarantees that they remain permanently peaceful. But, no one should be under the illusion that objective guarantees can theoretically or practically amount to cessation or even long term suspension of legal activity which have been and will be carried out under the fullest and most intrusive IAEA supervision. Cessation of legal activity is no objective guarantee against so-called break-out; it is indeed a historically tested recipe for one. . . .

This conference would be succeeded if we act together and focus our efforts towards major issues of high importance. Non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use are the pillars of the Treaty. The international community has lent this responsibility to each of us to preserve the integrity of the Treaty and promote its implementation. This would be achieved if we take appropriate decisions on:

1. Concrete steps towards ensuring universality of the NPT;
2. Realization of the commitment by Nuclear Weapons States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Non-Nuclear Weapons States parties to the Treaty through concluding a legally binding instrument;
3. Ensure and promote the basic rights of states parties to unhindered access to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes without discrimination;
4. Reconfirm the undertakings by Nuclear-Weapon States to implement 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament;...

Cuba-Venezuela Meeting (from page 1)

the Barrio Adentro (Inside the Neighborhood) II health care program for the poor.

* The training in Cuba of 10,000 graduates from the Mission Ribas (preparation of high school students for university education) program in the areas of Medicine and Nursing, who will be deployed throughout the country's polyclinics and hospitals and will stay in the homes of Cuban families.

* Cuba will continue its contribution to the development of Plans Barrio Adentro I and II, through which up to 30,000 Cuban doctors and other healthcare workers located throughout Venezuela will lend their services by the end of the second semester of this year.

* This year in Cuba, 100,000 Venezuelans with a variety of eye conditions are to receive surgical treatment. To that effect, the conditions have been created within hospitals to provide the most modern and sophisticated methods available as well as living conditions to ensure a comfortable stay. Likewise, Cuba will maintain its support in order to contribute to the success of the special Bolivarian programs, including:

* Mission Robinson I, through which Venezuela will soon declare itself the second illiteracy-free territory in the American continent, having taught 1.46 million Venezuelans how to read and write.

* Mission Robinson II, within which some 1.262 million Venezuelans are continuing their studies to sixth-grade level.

* Mission Ribas, educating high school students to give them access to university education; an opportunity for young Venezuelans offered by the Bolivarian Revolution. To that respect, the fulfillment of the Scholarship Plan offered by Cuba is to be promoted.

* Mission Sucre for the universalization of higher education.

* Mission Vuelvan Caras to train specialized workers and provide them with new sources of employment.

* In addition, the two countries will work on the design of a continental project to eliminate illiteracy in Latin America.

Medical treatment of Venezuelan patients in Cuba is to be maintained. By the end of 2004, the number of patients treated stood at 7,793, accompanied by 6,567 relatives or friends, who benefited from highly specialized services including cardiovascular surgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics, and organ transplants. It is anticipated that this year, the program will include a further 3,000 patients and their companions.

In the economic and commercial sector, the Strategic Plan also covers concrete plans as well as projects which we are jointly proposing to develop in the immediate future. . . .

In all, including government agreements, letters of intent, memorandums of understanding, contracts and framework agreements, 40 documents were signed. . . .

All of these agreements include actions and initiatives to progressively contribute to strengthening the integration process inspired by the ALBA, which will become an example, and in which we aspire to include Latin America and the Caribbean.

We should express that this Strategic Plan is a flexible tool that will continue to be extended and enriched as new proposals emerge that compliment the objectives established by the Joint Statement and the Agreement for the implementation of the ALBA.

In view of the historical privilege of making this Final Declaration public in the presence of President Hugo Chávez and President Fidel Castro, both delegations formally pledge to spare no effort until the dream of Bolívar and Martí of a Latin united and integrated America and Caribbean is attained. As the Joint Declaration expresses: "...we fully agree that the ALBA will not become a reality with mercantilist ideas or the selfish interests of business profitability or national benefit to the detriment of other peoples. Only a broad Latin Americanist vision, which acknowledges the impossibility of our countries' developing and being truly independent in an isolated manner, will be capable of achieving what Bolívar called "...to see the formation in the Americas of the greatest nation in the world, not so much for its size and riches as for its freedom and glory," and that Martí conceived of as "Our America," to differentiate it from the other America, the expansionist one with imperialist appetites.

In his memorable June 11, 1892, article in the magazine Patria, José Martí wrote: "Our enemy obeys one plan: to inflame us, disperse us, divide us, suffocate us. That is why we are obeying another plan: to show ourselves in all our stature, to tighten up, join together, to evade him, finally making our homeland free. Plan against plan."

This, which we are approving today, is that of Bolívar and Martí.

¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

Venezuelan and Cuban delegations

Havana, 28th day of the month of April of 2005

"Year of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas"

(The full text of this Cuban-Venezuelan statement is available on the online edition of the "Anti-Imperialist News Service," www.anti-imperialist.org)

Yvon Neptune (continued from page 4)

Article 41 states clearly that "no Haitian National can be deported or forced to leave the national territory for any reason whatsoever."

For more information:

Groupe de Defense des Droits Des Prisonniers Politiques, Ronald Saint-Jean, Secretary-General: 509-244-1254, 509-588-7550 (Haiti) Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, Mario Joseph, Managing Lawyer: 509-554-4284, 509-221-8686 (Haiti) Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, Brian Concannon Jr., Director: 541-432-0597 (USA), BrianHaiti@aol.com, www.ijdh.org (background information on Yvon Neptune's case, including the complaint filed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Haitian Lawyers Leadership Network, Marguerite Laurent (spoke with Neptune family members over the weekend), www.margueritelarent.com

Yvon Neptune III, But Refuses to Leave Haiti Without Justice Human Rights Group Denounces Unconstitutional Plan to Send an Unconscious Neptune Into Exile

Reprinted from Haitiaction.net

Political prisoner Yvon Neptune, seriously ill and on day 16 of a hunger strike, remains incarcerated in Haiti despite persistent reports in the Haitian and international press that he has been flown out of the country.

Mr. Neptune, Haiti's last constitutional Prime Minister, has insisted for months that he will not leave the prison until the Interim Haitian Government either tries him for the allegations against him or drops the charges. The interim government is seeking to defuse criticism of its political prisoner policies by forcing Mr. Neptune to leave the country without going to court. The Group for the Defense of the Rights of Political Prisoners (GDP), a Haitian human rights organization, reports that the government plans to wait until Mr. Neptune loses consciousness, then transport him out of the country.

On Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, several media outlets, including the Associated Press, ABC News and Radio Kiskeya in Haiti reported that Mr. Neptune was about to leave or had already left. Those reports, based on sources within the Haitian government and a foreign embassy, were not true. As of 2 PM Monday, May 2 (Haiti time), Mr. Neptune remains in prison.

Yvon Neptune has been in prison since June 2004, when he turned himself into police after hearing a radio announcement of a warrant for his arrest. He has never been brought before the judge in his case, despite a constitutional requirement of a hearing within 48 hours. Mr. Neptune has received several death threats, and at least three assassination plots have been reported against him.

Human rights groups, including the GDP and Amnesty International, world leaders like UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and religious leaders like Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and Rev.

Gerard Jean-Juste have called for Mr. Neptune's release or trial. On April 19, a team of lawyers from the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti and the Hastings Human Rights Project for Haiti filed a complaint before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Neptune's behalf (see http://www.ijdh.org/articles/article_recent_news_april-4-19-05.htm).

For months, Mr. Neptune has insisted that he will not leave until the government brings his case to trial or admits that the charges were without foundation. In February, he even voluntarily returned to the prison after he was removed at gunpoint during a prison break. Over the weekend, his family members reiterated that he refuses to leave Haiti without seeing justice done.

Haiti's interim government attempted to deflect the growing international pressure for Neptune's release by offering to fly him to the Dominican Republic over the weekend for treatment. Neptune, refused, once again insisting on justice, not an easy escape for either himself or the interim government.

According to Ronald Saint-Jean, the Secretary-General of the Group for the Defense of the Rights of Political Prisoners (GDP), government sources indicate that the authorities plan to wait until Mr. Neptune loses consciousness, then transport him out of the country. Mr. Saint-Jean, and GDP's lawyer, Mario Joseph of the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, "energetically protest against this cynical and criminal measure." They note the irony that the government can quickly arrange transport to a hospital in the Dominican Republic, but could not transport Mr. Neptune before a judge in over 10 months.

Saint-Jean and Joseph note that Neptune's forced exile would be yet another violation of his constitutional rights, as
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Venezuela-U.S. Military Cooperation Indefinitely Suspended

Last week, the Venezuelan government announced the termination of bilateral military exchanges with the U.S. and informed U.S. military officers in Venezuela to leave the country.

In announcing this decision Venezuela's President Hugo Chávez said that the U.S. officers "were waging a campaign in the Venezuelan military -- making comments, talking to Venezuelan soldiers, criticizing the president of Venezuela," Chávez affirmed, adding "all exchanges with US officers are suspended until who knows when. There will be no more combined operations, nothing like that."

Before last week's announcement, there were 5 U.S. officers in Venezuela, three in Fort Tiuna, located in Caracas, as well as one officer stationed in the Libertador Air Force Base and one in the Sucre Air Base, both of which are located in the industrial city of Maracay.

Venezuela's decision is part of its ongoing struggle to defend its sovereignty and independence in the face of con-

tinuing U.S. pressure and threats. In 2002 the U.S. helped sponsor an attempted coup against the elected government and this year, spokespersons in the Bush administration have repeatedly targeted Venezuela for "regime change."

President Chavez described the US military presence in Venezuela as "an organ of the CIA in the heart of Fort Tiuna, conspiring against the government."

He also reiterated the possible scenario of a U.S. invasion, saying that recent events have heightened these suspicions. Chávez spoke of the US military buildup in Panama prior to the 1991 invasion in which over 3,000 Panamanians died, explaining that the increase in US military personnel was part of Washington's strategy to "justify" the violation of Panamanian sovereignty. On one occasion conflicts erupted between Panamanian and U.S. soldiers, which was then used as a pretext for U.S. intervention.