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*NOT IF I GET YOU FIRST*

“We have problems with the government of the United States,” President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadenijad, told the Western allies, recently.

We are all too familiar with this incessant notification for the past month, past year, past decade. But no big deal. We’re used to being hated. We’ll just ignore it. It’s not particularly violent. It’s baseless. And, eventually, it’ll go away.

However, according to the recent IAEA report released by the United Nations, we shouldn’t have ignored the warning. Iran is gaining on the capabilities of becoming extremely violent. And we may be too late to react properly now.

“Iran has declared to the Agency 15 nuclear facilities and nine locations outside facilities where nuclear material is customarily used (LOFs),” the ten-page report reads. “Notwithstanding that certain of the activities being undertaken by Iran at some of the facilities are contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council...the Agency continues to implement safeguards at these facilities and LOFs.”

It continues on to say, “Contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the Security Council, Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities in the following declared facilities, all of which are nevertheless under Agency safeguards.”

My first reaction reading this was, well, it’s just the U.N. They tend to get facts wrong often (e.g The Goldstone Report). And I’m sure I’m not alone in this thought process. We all know how nuclear weapons were claimed to have been in countries we had invaded, only later to find out we’d been misled. But that truth cannot bring the thousands of our dead soldiers back from the dead. So, we all had a right to be skeptical over such a report.

However, as I delved deeper into the matter, and saw how Iran was denouncing and denying the IAEA report that so much evidence supported, I realized that just because we’ve all been laughing off the great Iranian President, doesn’t mean it was the smartest thing for us as a nation to do.

I mean, look at this way. These are just the nuclear facilities Iran decided to reveal to the U.N. representatives. This, after years of asking, was all we got. The U.N., however, can only suggest sanctions against the sovereign nation. Nothing more. And quite frankly, sanctions don’t seem to be making much of an impact in this day and age.

Take Qaddafi for example. We tried sanctioning him, but all that resulted was a revolution and poor citizens not receiving the funds they needed. In the Arabic nations, including the ones overrun by the Arab Spring, the ones in power are the ones with the trigger button. And they already have the funding they need, whether it comes from our

tax dollars slipping into their hands coincidentally or from terrorist funding. Losing U.S. support does not faze Ahmadienjad. He actually encourages it. So a few sanctions just aren't going to cut it to make him stop threatening to blow us up.

“The Agency has serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran’s nuclear programme. After assessing carefully and critically the extensive information available to it, the Agency finds the information to be, overall, credible. The information indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device,” the report’s summary reads.

Well, now, that’s a comfort. At least we’re all clear that they have an ongoing campaign to ensure that we are all exposed to enriched uranium sooner rather than later.

Yet again, the only response ours and all western governments have given is sanctions. Lots of rounds of sanctions.

Well, that is, everyone in the west except from Israel.

Of course, all of the operations Israel has carried out are speculation. However, we do know that mysteriously two viruses entered the Iranian computers and erased years worth of data from their nuclear program in the past six months. We also know that Iranian nuclear scientists have been coincidentally blowing up left and right. Israel has been training troops and practicing with ballistic missiles in the event that they should attack Iran’s nuclear facility. They consider the presence of a nuclear bomb in Iran “an existential threat.”

And with good reason. The Shahab-3, currently one of Iran’s deadliest weapons, is draped with banners reading, “Wipe Israel off the map,” a direct quote of the ever-lovely Ahmadienjad. And with Israel being the only true western democracy in the Middle East, that is a scary thought. Because with them gone, who will be our ally in that ever-tumultuous region?

The Obama Administration is not taking a stance on what the right course of action is, however. All President Obama keeps saying is that we must add more sanctions. To this, Ahmadienjad might as well respond, “kiss my ass.” Years of sanctions have proven to be ineffective so, Mr. President, I ask you why should this round be any different?

But the American administration has been quick to condemn any suggestion that Israel might strike the reactor before it’s too late. Since, you know, Israel might be a nuclear Iran’s first target. Obama feels that Israel should consult with America before it takes any unilateral action of its own.

To this Israel’s Defense Minister Ehud Barak has only one thing to say, “Mr. Obama, you know Israel is its own sovereign nation.”

And if they have the guts to defend its people, so be it. At least someone does.