A Disclaimer:

I want to keep my word with you. I know you understand that I receive interesting and timely news items from friends all over the world. Most of these items appear to have prophetic relevance. Others are of particular interest in the field of Science, Health & Nutrition, Devotional themes and some touches of Humor.

With a bit of hesitation, I am forwarding some of these items to friends like you via email. My concern is this: some persons who will receive or read the items I choose to forward will assume that I endorse, approve or believe every "iota," and that I am endorsing the author or source. *This simply is not true!* As you read, you must be discerning, choosy, discriminating and use common sense. If you are going to quote someone, quote the source -- I am not the source, I am the reporter . . . --CW

Iran Has Secretly Stocked Enriched Uranium for Four Nuclear Bombs

"The Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, American's scientific watchdog on world nuclear weapons production, estimates that by Dec. 2008, Iran had accumulated enough U-235 to fuel one nuclear bomb; by 2009, enough for a second, by August 2010 material for a third bomb and by April 2011, enough enriched uranium for a fourth bomb.

"These estimates presuppose an Iranian decision to further process low-enriched material to weapons grade -- a process taking no more than a couple of months.

"Iran, says the Wisconsin Project, is consolidating its status as a 'virtual' nuclear weapon state -- meaning it can set about building a bomb whenever its..."
“Senior RAND Corporation defense policy analyst Gregory S. Jones says that Iran is very close to building a nuclear bomb.

In a report published this week, Jones makes clear that the Iranians could produce enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon within eight weeks.

"Reviewing data from an International Atomic Agency report published two weeks ago, Jones analyzes Iran's uranium enrichment program ounce by ounce and concludes, not only is a bomb likely, it's unstoppable short of military occupation."

"Entitled 'The Day After the First Iranian Nuclear Test -- a Normal Day,’ the article coincides with other public or suspected activities that the United States and its allies see as indications that Tehran wants to possess atomic arms."
Tehran, Iran -- Iran has sent submarines to the Red Sea in the first such deployment by the country's navy in distant waters, a semi-official news agency reported on Tuesday.

"The Fars news agency, which is close to Iranian military officials, said the submarines would collect data in international waters and identify warships of other countries.

"Iran has long had three Russian-made submarines and last year, four new small Iranian-built submarines were delivered to its navy."

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Angels Speaking Spanish Again
After a much-needed hiatus, words are flowing

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Iran has secretly stocked enriched uranium for four nuclear bombs
DEBKAfile Special Report June 3, 2011, 8:24 AM (GMT+02:00)
Tags: Iran nuclear, uranium enrichment, US, Meir Dagan, Stuxnet, Israel

The Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, American's scientific watchdog on world nuclear weapons production, estimates that by Dec. 2008, Iran had accumulated enough U-235 to fuel one nuclear bomb; by 2009, enough for a second, by August 2010 material for a third bomb and by April 2011, enough enriched uranium for a fourth bomb.

These estimates presuppose an Iranian decision to further process low-enriched material to weapons grade - a process taking no more than a couple of months.

Iran, says the Wisconsin Project, is consolidating its status as a "virtual" nuclear weapon state – meaning it can set about building a bomb whenever its rulers so decide.

In its twice-annual report published Thursday, June 2, Wisconsin revealed three further developments in Iran's nuclear drive:

1. Since November 2010, when Iran stopped enriching uranium in all cascades at the Natanz plant for about a week (the report does not give the reason for the stoppage – possibly a Stuxnet virus invasion of its computer control system), the enrichment rate has increased. The 5,000 centrifuges spinning in February 2011 increased to nearly 6,000 in May 2011.

debkafile's Iranian sources add: Prof. Fereidoon Abbasi Davani has taken over as director of the enrichment complex at Natanz. He was formerly in charge of combating the Stuxnet worm.

Last November, Prof. Abbasi Davani escaped with light injuries from an attack by a pair of motorcyclists who attached a sticky bomb to his car. It occurred near the Imam Hossein University in Tehran where most of Iran's secret nuclear labs are located.

2. Wisconsin quotes the International Atomic Energy Agency's May 2011 report that one of its seals was broken in the "feed and withdrawal area" of the Natanz enrichment plant. This means that Iran took action to conceal the real amount of enriched uranium stockpile from the nuclear watchdog and the fact, as Wisconsin reports, that it has accumulated enough material for building four nuclear bombs. Its steady progress will go undetected until the next IAEA inventory in October or November.

debkafile's intelligence sources point out that Tehran has won a period of six to seven months for keeping its nuclear activities hidden from oversight with no one in the West or in Israel able to find out what is going on at the Natanz enrichment plant.

3. Wisconsin goes on to state: "Uncertainties about the number of centrifuges operated by Iran make it difficult to draw a conclusion about the performance of individual machines." More machines may be switched on when IAEA inspectors are not present while less, more advanced centrifuges, may take over after the inspection is over.

Our sources stress that these revelations are highly pertinent to the controversy taking place in Israel over the surprising comments by ex-Mossad Director Meir Dagan.

Dubbed "Mister Stop the Bomb" for reputedly directing covert operations that held off Iran's nuclear threat for five or six years – though this may an exaggeration - Dagan suddenly began speaking out strongly against any Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear program. Wednesday, June 1,
he implicitly warned that such an attack would precipitate a regional war in which Israel would fare badly. 

Israel's political and defense establishments have always had their doves but Dagan is sounding one like for the first time. 

The controversy around his comments reflects a similar argument afoot in US political and defense circles over whether the time has come to smash Iran's nuclear capability or stand by and let the Islamic Republic becomes a "virtual nuclear weapon state."

In the last three years, the two schools of thought for and against military action against Iran have been joined by a third, which affirms that the US and Israel can live with an Iran armed with one or two nuclear bombs because this number would be dwarfed even by Israel's reputed stock let alone the American arsenal. Therefore, until Iran stockpiles a serous arsenal of weapons, it does not constitute an existential threat to Israel. 

The Wisconsin Project's latest report explodes this argument because it exposes the steady accumulation of materials for four bombs in two-and-a-half years and Iran's dogged advance toward a serious arsenal unless it is stopped. 

That is the reason why the military option is back on the table in Jerusalem.

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Senior RAND Corporation defense policy analyst Gregory S. Jones says that Iran is very close to building a nuclear bomb.

In a report published this week, Jones makes clear that the Iranians could produce enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon within eight weeks.

Reviewing data from an International Atomic Agency report published two weeks ago, Jones analyzes Iran's uranium enrichment program ounce by ounce and concludes, not only is a bomb likely, it's unstoppable short of military occupation.

He writes:

The reality is that both the U.S. and Israel have failed to prevent Iran from gaining the ability to produce nuclear weapons whenever Iran wishes to do so.

It is time to recognize this policy failure and decide what to do next, based on a realistic assessment of Iran's uranium enrichment efforts.

Jones states Iran has 6,000 pounds of 3.5 percent uranium at one facility alone that can be used to create 44 pounds of highly enriched uranium needed for a nuclear weapon.

Iran's three enrichment facilities together produce about 230 pounds of enriched uranium a month.
By Associated Press, Published: June 8

VIENNA — An article praising the idea of Iran testing a nuclear bomb on a Revolutionary Guard website is raising alarms in western intelligence circles, which interpret it as evidence of strong backing in the Islamic Republic for such a move.

Entitled “The Day After the First Iranian Nuclear Test — a Normal Day,” the article coincides with other public or suspected activities that the United States and its allies see as indications that Tehran wants to possess atomic arms.

“The day after the first Iranian nuclear test for us Iranians will be an ordinary day, but in the eyes of many of us, it will have a new shine, from the power and dignity of the nation,” says the article published on the Gerdab site run by the Revolutionary Guard.

A translation that was vetted by The Associated Press was provided by a Western official who asked for anonymity because of the nature of his information.

Iran denies nuclear weapons intentions — while moving consistently closer to such a capacity.

An International Atomic Energy Agency report last month listed “high-voltage firing and instrumentation for explosives testing over long distances and possibly underground” as one of seven “areas of concern” that Iran may be conducting clandestine nuclear weapons work.

Adding to concerns Wednesday, the country’s nuclear chief announced that his country will soon install more advanced equipment at a fortified underground site to allow it to enrich uranium faster and to higher levels.

Iran says it wants to enrich only to power a future network of reactors. But over the past two years it has started to enrich uranium to a level higher than what is needed for nuclear fuel and closer to the grade used to make the fissile core of nuclear warheads.

On Wednesday, Vice President and nuclear head Fereidoun Abbasi announced Iran would increase its capacity to enrich to that higher level — near 20 percent — by installing more efficient centrifuges and would triple the output of the higher grade material.

The move comes despite four rounds of U.N. Security Council sanctions over Tehran’s refusal to halt enrichment.
Abbasi said that the new generation centrifuges would be set up at the Fordo site near the holy city of Qom in central Iran.

Built next to a military complex to protect it in case of an attack, Fordo was long kept secret and was only acknowledged by Iran shortly before Western intelligence agencies went public with it in September 2009. The area is heavily protected by the powerful Revolutionary Guard.

Low-enriched uranium — at around 3.5 percent — can be used to fuel a reactor to generate electricity. But if uranium is further enriched to around 90 percent purity, it can be used to develop a nuclear warhead — and enriching to 90 percent can be done much more quickly from near 20 percent than from low-enriched material.

Iran has been producing low-enriched uranium for years and began higher enrichment in February 2010, asserting it needs the higher grade material to produce fuel for a Tehran reactor that makes medical radioisotopes needed for cancer patients.

David Albright, whose Institute for Science and International Security tracks suspected proliferators, said it was unrealistic for Tehran to accelerate production of 20-percent uranium to the degree stated by Abbasi for that one research reactor.

“It doesn’t make any sense for civil research purposes,” he said. “They are not going to build for or five research reactors.”

The article on the website — along with Wednesday’s announcement on enrichment and the IAEA suspicions about secret experiments — strengthens concerns that “they are moving toward nuclear weapons,” he said.

The article ends with an Arabic quote from the Qur'an: “And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy.”

The official said that the article was first posted in April. The Farsi version was still on the website late Wednesday.

Albright speculated that its publication reflected that at least some powerful Revolutionary Guard factions supported such a test, even if the article did not express the position of the Iranian leadership as a whole.

“This could be reflecting an internal debate,” he said.

George Jahn is at http://twitter.com/georgejahn

Associated Press writer Ali Akbar Dareini contributed from Tehran.

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Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad checks his notes during a news conference in Tehran June 7, 2011. No offer from world powers could persuade Iran to stop enriching uranium, President Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday. REUTERS/Caren Firouz
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It may interest you to know that almost 400 million people worldwide speak Spanish. About half of the population in the Western Hemisphere speaks Spanish. Most of South America speaks Spanish, as does Central America and Mexico. Within the United States, Spanish is the second most widely spoken language after English—by a very wide margin. So here’s the book, back in our catalog and ready to go to work.

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