

## TWO MOVES FROM CHECKMATE

### Two Moves From Checkmate

*By LTC Joe Rawlings*

We are two moves from Checkmate with the nation of Iran, who helped invent and modernize the game of chess centuries ago. Within the game of chess, it is possible to be in a situation in which no matter how you move your pieces, within one of the next two moves you will be placed in Checkmate -- this is exactly the situation the United States finds itself now. There are facts that run contradictory to mainstream media and may not be known or understood, but an open-minded approach must be used when dealing with a complicated people, and to try to figure out what is really going on with the Islamic State of Iran. Partial or flawed

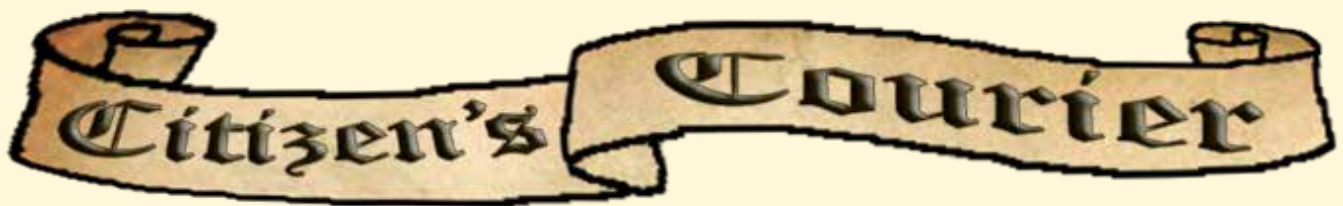
statements are frequently being stated by Politicians and Pundits across official and media channels, but truth needs to break through this critical issue that our nation faces against the resurgent Persian Empire.

Know this - Embarrassment is likely part of the play, as it is important to prove the US and the international community have wrongly assumed the worst. But - that embarrassment creates leverage that could result in the US or international community offering up our very best technology in either a negotiated trade deal or simply giving away nuclear technology in hopes that Iran remains peaceful with its nuclear intentions and program. We are being played by Iran into a Checkmate situation in which the United States could be embarrassed on multiple levels.

Do not assume that Iran is producing nuclear weapons within its ongoing nuclear effort. This is more likely baiting us into Checkmate.

Iran needs nuclear power to offset ongoing fossil-fuel consumption that produces 87% of their electrical power (the other 13% from hydro). For every kilowatt of power shifted to nuclear power, that offsets the requirement to burn oil or natural gas for electricity, and would simultaneously improve both natural gas and oil exports to the world. Iran is so reliant on old technology and inefficient energy, they still import electricity.

A civilian nuclear energy program matured in Iran will result in Iran transitioning into the world's largest exporter of natural gas, and simultaneously becoming one of the top (if not **the top**) exporting oil nation to the world.



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It is all about the method of energy production, gaining production / export offsets, and the ability to raise capital. With increased natural gas and oil exports, the additional capital could be used for other purposes - conventional weapons procurement, a conventional military force buildup, and/or further procurement that could result in nuclear weapons capability - but not necessarily a direct capability obtained through their current/ongoing nuclear engineering processes. However, even a so-called "peaceful" development of nuclear energy technology results in the know-how and enrichment processes to more quickly convert to making a nuclear arsenal. But – this bomb-making potential has become the shiny object that is blinding Politicians and Pundits alike.

If the U. S. and/or international inspection agencies do get access to Iran - expect embarrassment, expect Checkmate. When/if Iran shows the world that they have

absolutely no nuclear weapons program - **WE LOSE**. We should not play into this trap - the strategy that Iran is likely playing needs to be considered, and the World Factbook data is useful to consider. But also know this - even if I am wrong, and a nuclear weapons program is discovered in some rudimentary capacity - **WE STILL LOSE**. Why? Because the world will still be at Checkmate to voluntarily trade Civilian Nuclear Energy technology to Iran as negotiation to discontinue its (alleged) weapons program. In either scenario, we still appear to be **TWO MOVES FROM CHECKMATE**.

With regard to Iran and the information we typically all gather from Western news outlets, most everything you have ever read or tried to understand about Iran come from speculative sources. One example of Iran's methods, the most privy information in Iran may not ever be revealed except between their leadership (Grand Ayatollah) and his executive orders given to one single mission

executor. What this means - if hypothetically the Grand Ayatollah has ordered a specific terrorist act to be carried out, he may have a private meeting with the individual that carries out the mission, and - only the two of them know about it, and that individual then executes the mission sometimes with no other assistance. When/if other people get involved in the mission, it could be under the guise of some named group to remove connectivity with the nation state of Iran. This example is why Iran is a very difficult nation to effectively gather information from, and even more difficult to trace back and lay blame toward when Iran gets involved in international terrorism - they are experts at cutting out middle men below the Grand Ayatollah. And further - why do I say the Grand Ayatollah? He is the true leader of Iran, and any named "president" is a figure head for the sake of Western expectations and media distraction...Cont. pg. 5

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## STRANGE BEDFELLOWS?? FOLLOW THE MONEY??

By Don Shrader – Chairman

There is an old adage that says, "Politics makes strange bedfellows." I contend "Money makes strange bedfellows," or should I say, "The money of politics makes strange bedfellows."

As most people know, the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, recently made a speech to a joint session of Congress at the invitation of House Speaker John Boehner which President Obama opposed, and now Moveon.org is pushing for Boehner to face a criminal indictment for violating the Logan Act of 1799.

Netanyahu's speech was very well delivered by a master politician pleading his case to America and the Free World to oppose any kind of provision of nuclear power to Iran. There is no doubt that given the ability to destroy Israel by any means, nuclear or other, that Iran would do so and would be cheered by all other Arab nations, even those currently at odds with each other as well as Iran. This is in keeping with the predictions of God,

our Creator. All Arabs are descendants of Abram (later changed to Abraham) through Abram's wife's maidservant, Hagar, and then through her son, Ishmael (the name given to him by God Himself.) (See Genesis chapter 16) There, God tells Hagar that Ishmael's descendants will be "too numerous to count" (verse 10) but also that he (and therefore his descendants) will be warring Bedouins that "will live in hostility toward all his brothers." (Verse 12, which undoubtedly includes both Jews [descendants of Isaac] and Arabs – his natural brothers, as has been proven through the centuries.) With respect to Netanyahu's speech before Congress, *the algemeiner* (a Jewish Newspaper in America) reported the following:

Leading Arab opinion makers weighed in on the controversy surrounding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress on Tuesday and expressed strong support for his stance on the Iranian nuclear threat.

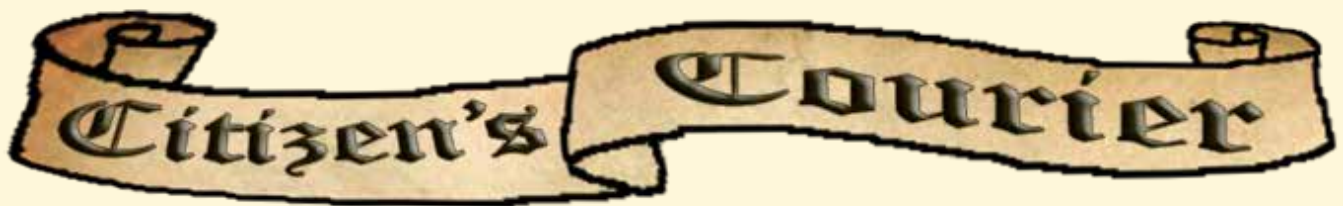
In an op-ed for the Saudi Arabian daily *Al-Jazirah* on Monday, columnist Dr. Ahmad Al-Faraj asserted that Netanyahu is justified in his campaign against the proposed nuclear deal with Iran, according to [The Middle East Media Research Institute](#). Al-Faraj said Netanyahu's effort to prevent the signing of the agreement is in the

interests of the Gulf States, and that the prime minister "is right to insist on addressing Congress about the nuclear deal."

"I am very glad of Netanyahu's firm stance and [his decision] to speak against the nuclear agreement at the American Congress despite the Obama administration's anger and fury," Al-Faraj wrote. "I believe that Netanyahu's conduct will serve our interests, the people of the Gulf, much more than the foolish behavior of one of the worst American presidents."

The Editor-in-Chief of *Al Arabiya English*, Faisal J. Abbas, [published a column](#) on Tuesday in which he asked Obama to take notes from Netanyahu on the extent of the Iranian threat. In the piece, titled "President Obama, Listen to Netanyahu on Iran," Abbas said, "one must admit, Bibi did get it right, at least when it came to dealing with Iran."

Abbas noted that Netanyahu "hit the nail right on the head" when he said at a recent event in Tel Aviv that "Middle Eastern countries are collapsing and that 'terror organizations, mostly backed by Iran, are filling in the vacuum.'" In his remarks, Netanyahu "managed to accurately summarize a clear and present danger, not just to Israel (which obviously is his concern), but to other US allies in the region," Abbas wrote.



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“What is absurd, however,” Abbas continued, “is that despite this being perhaps the only thing that brings together Arabs and Israelis (as it threatens them all), the only stakeholder that seems not to realize the danger of the situation is President Obama, who is now infamous for being the latest pen-pal of the Supreme Leader of the World’s biggest terrorist regime: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.”

So, does it not seem strange to you that the Saudi Arabian Arabs would support the Jewish Netanyahu on his stance against Iran, claiming that *“Netanyahu’s conduct will serve our interests....”*

Just what are the “interests” of Saudi Arabia with respect to Iran and its nuclear capability? Are they really afraid of Iran wiping Israel off the face of the earth? Are they afraid that Iran will use the bomb against Saudi Arabia, a devout Muslim nation that would not even let American troops carry personal Bibles with them when serving in the U.S. military, defending other Arab nations against the invasion of Saddam Hussein? (In light of this article, why did Saddam Hussein invade Kuwait?) Same answer to both questions – FOLLOW THE MONEY!

For the moment, consider that Iran is after nuclear power generation for their electrical energy needs and not the bomb. Why? FOLLOW THE

MONEY! A probable explanation was provided to me a few weeks ago by a knowledgeable source (see accompanying article by LTC Joe Rawlings). Here is his take on why Iran first desires nuclear power to provide their energy needs (not that they would not eventually work to use it to build the bomb as well in order to wipe out Israel and other infidel nations):

Iran needs nuclear power to offset ongoing fossil-fuel consumption that produces 87% of their electrical power (the other 13% from hydro), and simultaneously improve both natural gas and oil exports to the world. Iran is so reliant on old technology and inefficient energy, they still import electricity.

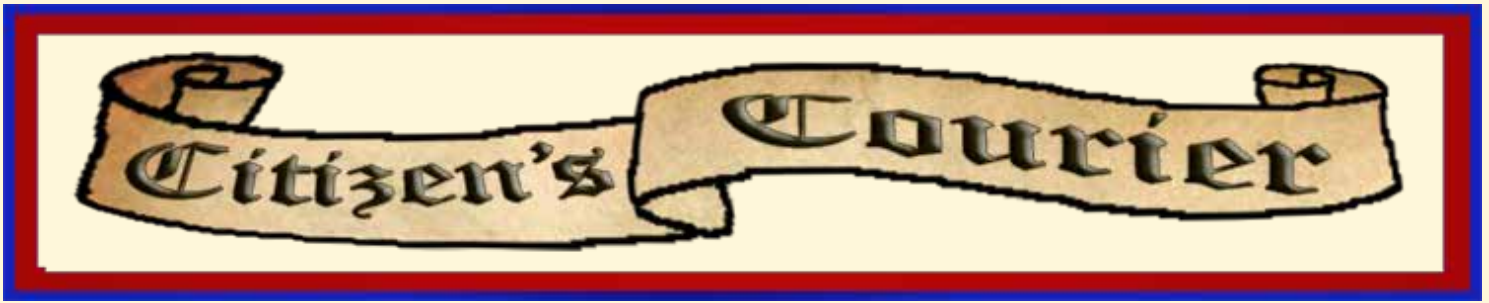
A civilian nuclear energy program matured in Iran will result in their current lack of natural gas exports and minimized oil exports to transition into the world's largest exporter of natural gas, and propel Iran to become one of the top (if not the top) exporting oil nation in the world.

It is all about the method of energy production, gaining production/export offsets, and the ability to raise capital.

This additional capital could be used for other purposes - conventional weapons procurement, a conventional military force buildup, and/or further procurement that does grant them

nuclear weapons capability - but not necessarily a direct capability obtained through their current/ongoing nuclear engineering processes.

Now do you understand the essence of strange bedfellows and my posture of, “FOLLOW THE MONEY?” Many are decrying the “attack” by Saudi Arabia on the U.S. oil industry by lowering the price of oil to current levels (another article for another time). However, whatever aspects are true with respect to such cries against Saudi Arabia’s current oil pricing, there is no doubt they are not siding with Netanyahu (for the moment) for humanitarian reasons but for purely economic reasons. If Iran can reverse its energy economics from being an importer of electricity to becoming one of the top exporters of oil and natural gas, this obviously threatens Saudi Arabia’s economy in a very negative way, thus, as stated by the article, “Netanyahu’s conduct will serve our interests.” FOLLOW THE MONEY!



*TWO MOVES FROM CHECKMATE...cont. from pg. 2*

For a more detailed discussion, there are statistics from the CIA's World Factbook for reference. As a stepping off point, it is important to know Iran's rank in the world in terms of population, as it is the number 19 most populace nation.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2119rank.html>

THE WORLD FACTBOOK			
COUNTRY COMPARISON :: POPULATION			
RANK	COUNTRY	POPULATION	DATE OF
1	<a href="#">China</a>	1,355,692,576	July 2014
2	<a href="#">India</a>	1,236,344,631	July 2014
3	<a href="#">European Union</a>	511,434,812	July 2014
4	<a href="#">United States</a>	318,892,103	July 2014
5	<a href="#">Indonesia</a>	253,609,643	July 2014
16	<a href="#">Egypt</a>	86,895,099	July 2014
17	<a href="#">Turkey</a>	81,619,392	July 2014
18	<a href="#">Germany</a>	80,996,685	July 2014
19	<a href="#">Iran</a>	80,840,713	July 2014
20	<a href="#">Conqo, Democratic Rep</a>	77,433,744	July 2014



The Energy section within the World Factbook is specifically in need of reference for this discussion.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ir.html>

THE WORLD FACTBOOK			
COUNTRY COMPARISON :: NATURAL GAS - PROVED RESERVES			
RANK	COUNTRY	(CU M)	DATE OF INFO
1	<a href="#">Russia</a>	47,800,000,000,000	1 January 2013
2	<a href="#">Iran</a>	33,610,000,000,000	1 January 2013
3	<a href="#">Qatar</a>	25,200,000,000,000	1 January 2013
4	<a href="#">Turkmenistan</a>	17,500,000,000,000	1 January 2013
5	<a href="#">United States</a>	9,459,000,000,000	1 January 2012

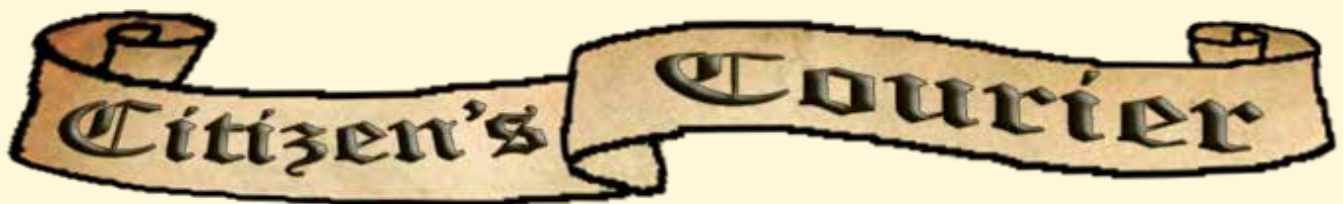
Iran is the number 2 nation in the world, behind Russia, in terms of world Proven Reserves of Natural Gas.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2253rank.html>

THE WORLD FACTBOOK			
COUNTRY COMPARISON :: NATURAL GAS - EXPORTS			
Natural gas - exports compares the total natural gas exported in cubic met			
<a href="#">DOWNLOAD DATA</a>			
RANK	COUNTRY	(CU M)	DATE OF
1	<a href="#">Russia</a>	196,000,000,000	2013 est.
2	<a href="#">Qatar</a>	113,700,000,000	2011 est.
3	<a href="#">Norway</a>	107,300,000,000	2012 est.
23	<a href="#">Egypt</a>	10,510,000,000	2011 est.
24	<a href="#">Kazakhstan</a>	9,700,000,000	2011 est.
25	<a href="#">Brunei</a>	9,420,000,000	2011 est.
26	<a href="#">Iran</a>	9,050,000,000	2011 est.
27	<a href="#">United Kingdom</a>	8,949,000,000	2013 est.

And yet - Iran is only number 26 in the world in Exporting that same Natural Gas.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2251rank.html>



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There is a tremendous disparity here of Iran's Proven Reserves vs Exports of Natural Gas. This contrast is one of the most overlooked statistics in all of our national strategy (and mainstream news) toward Iran. Iran does not effectively produce and export their natural gas. While Iran has developed hydro power (13% of electricity produced from hydro), there isn't much expansion or efficiency to be further gained from hydro power expansion in Iran. Improving the Iranian power grid requires that their Electrical power generation be diversified into other means of production.

Nuclear power is the sought-after diversification for the Iranian regime. What happens when Iran gains nuclear engineering capability to transition their power grid into mostly nuclear power? Their number 2 proven reserves of Natural Gas become an economic boon to Iranians, but

to the rest of the world it is an economic beast or monster the world has never seen. If you think a nuclear weapons program is bad, just wait until you see what an Iranian regime loaded with capital can do to procure Conventional weapons and military capacity! And with that capital and nuclear know how - the future could still hold a nuclear-armed Iran, whether their own or procured/bought capability.

I encourage you to be prepared and be informed. I don't want our great nation embarrassed, and I especially don't like to lose, yet I truly believe we are "Two Moves From Checkmate."

The best solution to this problem is to simply walk away from the chess game and put the handcuffs on our chess opponent – do not give away any advanced nuclear technology, while forcing Iran to stop all current nuclear energy

and nuclear enrichment activities.

LTC Joe Rawlings

*(These views are my own and do not reflect an official position of the U. S. Government or the U. S. Army)*

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*LTC Joe Rawlings is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Army, an Aviation officer and Strategist who has served multiple tours including Republic of Korea, and deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Joe received his Master's Degree from the prestigious School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, is currently involved with Joint Testing at Nellis AFB, NV, and has always maintained his residency as an Ohio voter throughout his career.*