

Iran Politics Report

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US intended Summit in Poland; what makes Iran agitated?

Earlier on Friday Washington announced that the summit would be held in Warsaw from Feb. 13 to Feb. 14, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the meeting would focus on stability and security in the Middle East, including on the "important element of making sure that Iran is not a destabilizing influence."

It is still not clear how many countries will attend the summit and what is the exact goal President Donald Trump's administration is pursuing by organizing an international gathering.

In the meantime, economic pressures on Iran mounted dramatically as the United States announced that Washington will grant no more waivers to buyers for importing Iranian oil, in another push to choke off Tehran's sources of income, reported the National on Saturday.

Europe's participation would be an important factor for the summit to be considered a success. Major European countries did not approve of the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and promised trade facilities to Iran to calm its protests as the U.S. sanctions hurt its economy.

Zarif's deputy Abbas Araqchi also said that Iran has respected Polish refugees for decades and preserved thousands of their graves in Tehran for 77 years now, although graveyards can be demolished after 30 years based to Iranian laws.

BBC Persian: Why have Americans chosen Poland to host the event?

Poland is one of the most loyal allies to the US in Easter Europe. This country has defended the nuclear deal in the past, but with an exception; Warsaw understands Washington's concerns on Tehran.

Poland's penchant towards the US has a historic background. There's a fear of Russia among Polish people and politicians. The fear doubled after the integration of Crimea to Russia in 2014.

Poland has suggested to the US that it build two military bases inside the country.

2/3rd of Poland's military hardware belong to the cold war era and it needs the US to rebuild its military armaments.

Trump has time and again criticized NATO members, especially Germany arguing that it must spend at least 2% of its GDP on military. Poland has not only followed the order, but has also allocated more than 2% to purchase weapons from the US.

Energy and Fuel

One of the main goals of Poland's nationalist conservative party is to reduce dependence to Russia especially in energy sector. In line with that policy Poland has announced that it would not extend its LNG contract with Russia's Gasprom in 2020 and has started to replace its source of energy with importing LNG from other countries specially the US.

Aftab Yazd Daily: Poland Close to US, Israel

Mohammad Ali Basiri, International Rights expert says that the countries in Eastern Europe are closer to the US and the "Zionist Regime." He also added that holding this summit is not Poland's official position, but a kind of cooperation in this conference.

Comment: Had this event been held in Paris or London, it would have had more negative implications against Iran. The fact that the Conference is to be held in Poland is a privilege to Iran since it reduces the impact of the conference by Western European countries showing less willingness to take part.

On Iranian Authorities Reaction to Announcement:

On Iranian officials' reaction to the upcoming summit, Mohammad Ali Basiri touched on their mentioning Polish cemetery in Iran and said if the Islamic Republic reacts too harshly to the news, it would add to the importance of the conference, therefore impulsive reactions would not be to the benefit of Iran.

This conference is also an attempt by Arab countries to compensate their failure in Iraq and Syria.

Mardom Salari Daily: It's Easy to Guess Who Would Participate in Event

Despite no information on the participants of the conference, it is easy to expect the fervent attendance of Persian Gulf Arab states as well as Netanyahu and hardline Europeans to failing MeK terrorists and monarchy supporters.

Why Is US Resorting to Such Tactics?

The same US who had no trouble in garnering international support in its confrontation with Iran during the last two decades, is now facing difficulty in implementing the same policy. Enmity with Iran is costly for countries, with the exception of the US, Saudi Arabia and the Zionist Regime.

These costs may not fully stop them, but they sure are influential in reducing the impact of their enmity.

After his withdrawal from the JCPOA the WH businessman is after coming up with excuses to force Iran to scrap the nuclear deal. This is the only way for him to gather international backing of nations against Iran and advance his Iranophobia agenda. It seems that Iran's commitment to the JCPOA has put the US in a catch 22 situation where it has resorted to holding conferences in order to implement its strategy.

Arman Daily: Conference may lead to Iran-Poland End of Diplomatic Relations

Political Analyst, Rahman Ghahremanpour says that it would be a violation of the UN charter if a country destabilizes another one who is also a member of the UN and has recognized its charter. This is the case of Poland with regards to Iran. The whole issue shouldn't have been a concern if the conference was to be held with another topic, but if the conference clearly states that it is aimed at gathering Iran's opposition in order to destabilize the country, the issue could be legally pursued by Iran's Foreign Ministry, since it is a violation of the countries' sovereignty according to the UN Charter.

The worst case scenario would be Iran severing ties with Poland. We have to wait and see what the impact, participants, and the role of Poland as well as the US would be in the conference.

France wants Iran to halt Missile Activities

France on Friday called on Iran to immediately stop all activities linked to ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear weapons after Tehran said it could put two satellites into orbit in the coming weeks.

"France recalls that the Iranian missile program is not conformity with U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231," Foreign ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll told reporters in a daily briefing.

"It calls on Iran to immediately cease all ballistic missile-related activities designed to carry nuclear weapons, including tests using ballistic missile technology."

Von der Muhll was responding to comments by President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday, who said two satellites would be sent into space using Iran-made missiles.

Little Rooster

Source: Arman Daily, Jan 13, 2018

France has proved that it is the number one country among the 3 European countries attacking Iran's Missile Program. At a time when Europe has not fulfilled its SPV promises after the US

withdrawal from the JCPOA, France has now resorted to options such as threats and sanctions. France has announced that Iran must halt all its ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads immediately. The French are the rudest among Europeans with its officials talking about Iran's missile program even during their trips to Iran. It seems that expressing ideas about Iran's ballistic missile program is an inseparable part of French diplomats' remarks.

Taliban Say Negotiations with Iran 'Necessary'

Source: Radio Farda

A spokesman for the Afghan Taliban says that negotiations between the militant group and Iran are "necessary."

Spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid described the talks as a political conversation with a neighboring country. Speaking with the state-run Iran Labor News Agency (ILNA) on January 5, he said, "We should discuss the future of our country with Tehran in order to take positive steps toward strengthening friendship and peace on both sides."

He stressed that the group would keep its channels open to Iran. The ultra-conservative Sunni group dispatched a delegation to Iran last week to meet with a group of Iranian diplomats led by Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Tehran.

Iran says the meeting aimed to promote peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban and that the Afghan government had been informed. Following the talks, Araghchi traveled to Kabul to brief Afghan authorities on the meetings.

This is not the first time the Afghan Taliban have sent a delegation to Tehran. In 2015, a Taliban delegation based in Qatar and led by the head of the group's political bureau, Tayyib Aqa, also visited the Iranian capital.

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, recently visited Kabul and said Tehran had held talks with the Taliban.

"We have a single leadership and policy, and therefore we are in contact with many neighboring and non-neighboring countries," ILNA quoted Mujahid as saying. "Our contact with Iran is the same as that of other countries, and maintaining contact with Iran is very important to us."

Previously, the Afghan Taliban had said the delegation's aim was to discuss the future withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and regional stability.

"The delegation visited Tehran to share Taliban's views on a 'post-occupation' scenario and establishment of peace and security in Afghanistan and the region with Iranian officials," Mujahid said in a statement that reflected growing confidence among the Taliban for an imminent U.S. exit from Afghanistan.

The Taliban's talks in Tehran come amid repeated accusations by Washington that Iran is training and equipping the insurgents. Tehran has dismissed such allegations as unfounded.

In his interview with ILNA, Mujahid criticized the Islamic State (IS) militant group, saying it has "dangerous designs" for the region.

"Frankly, the Afghan people find IS's beliefs problematic. IS does not observe any Islamic laws, and their beliefs have no roots in Islam or Shari'a," he said.

Mujahid also had strong words for the foreign forces currently deployed in Afghanistan. "If the Taliban concludes that Americans are not seeking to achieve peace through negotiations and do not withdraw their troops from Afghanistan, we will without doubt dispatch them with military force and during the intensification of jihad from Afghanistan," he said.

After weeks of Pentagon officials denying reports of a U.S. drawdown from Afghanistan, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence confirmed on January 4 that U.S. President Donald Trump is in "the process of evaluating" whether to withdraw troops from the war-torn country.

"The biggest issue that matters to us is the dismissal of U.S. troops. Of course, solutions have been considered, but the Americans have accepted that more talks are needed about how they will leave Afghanistan and that they will be followed up in the upcoming summit," Mujahid said.

"We have not stopped jihad and are still at war with the Americans, and on the other hand we recognize the government of national unity as a puppet of the United States," he added.

Mujahid did not rule out the possibility of the Taliban's participation in Afghanistan's next election, but noted, "First of all, we believe that the occupation of Afghanistan by the United States must come to an end. The next step is to determine the structure of the political system that will eventually be voted for by the Afghans."