

FOIA Marker

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Counselor's Office

Gillespie, Edward (Ed) - Confidential Files

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V	6	4	4	2	39235	1000008951	851	CF 0841

Folder Title:

[Iran] [Folder 2]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
003	Report	[Report]	3	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
004	Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
006	Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
008	Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;
010	Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;

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[Iran] [Folder 2]

FRC ID:

39235

RESTRICTION CODES

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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Joint Press Availability with President Sarkozy of France
Mount Vernon, Virginia
November 7, 2007

We just had an extensive conversation, one that you'd expect good friends to have. We talked about Iran and the desire to work jointly to convince the Iranian regime to give up their nuclear weapons *ambitions*, for the sake of peace.

I believe it is important for us to send clear signals to the Iranian government that the free world understands the risks of you *trying to end up* with a nuclear weapon.

Remarks at the National Defense University
October 29, 2007

Missile defense also helps us dissuade nations from developing nuclear weapons. Through our missile defense partnerships with nations in Asia and Europe and the Middle East, we can help friends and allies defend against attack. These defenses will build their confidence, and these defenses will make it less likely that they will feel (the need to) respond to the nuclear *ambitions* of Iran and North Korea by developing nuclear weapons of their own.

The President's News Conference
October 22, 2007

The President: Well, I don't know yet. What I'm about to tell you is, is that I'm looking forward to getting President Putin's readout from the meeting. I think one of the--the thing I'm interested in is whether or not he continues to harbor the same concerns that I do. And I say "continues" because when we were in Australia, he reconfirmed to me that it is--*he recognized it's not in the world's interest for Iran to have the capacity to make a nuclear weapon*. And they have been very supportive in the United Nations, and we're working with them on a potential third resolution.

So that's where my concerns--I don't worry about the pictures. I understand why they meet. I am--will continue to work with Russia, as well as other nations, to keep a focused effort on sending Iran a message that--"You will remain isolated if you continue your *nuclear weapons ambitions*."

Q. But you definitively believe Iran wants to build a nuclear weapon?

The President. I think so long--until they suspend and/or make it clear that they--that their statements aren't real, yes, I believe they *want to have the capacity, the knowledge*, in order to

make a nuclear weapon. And I know it's in the world's interest to prevent them from doing so. I believe that the Iranian--if Iran had a nuclear weapon, it would be a dangerous threat to world peace.

But this is--we got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding world war III, it seems like you ought to be interested in *preventing them from have the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon*. I take the threat of Iran with a nuclear weapon very seriously, and we'll continue to work with all nations about the seriousness of this threat. Plus, we'll continue working the financial measures that we're in the process of doing. In other words, I think--the whole strategy is, is that at some point in time, leaders or responsible folks inside of Iran may get tired of isolation and say, "This isn't worth it." And to me, it's worth the effort to keep the pressure on this Government.

**Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session
West Hempfield Township, Pennsylvania
October 8, 2007**

And so our objective with Iran is to peacefully deal with the issue and convince the Iranians to give up their *nuclear weapons ambitions* for the sake of peace...

You know, in Iran, we're dealing with a country where the leader has said that he wants to destroy Israel. My belief is that the United States will defend our ally, Israel. This is a leader who has made very provocative statements, and we have made it clear, however, in spite of that, that we're willing to sit down with him, so long as he suspends his program--his nuclear weapons program. In other words, it's his choice, not mine anymore.

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April 9, 2007**

Q. Back to Iran, sir. ABC has been reporting that Iran will be capable of building a nuclear bomb within 2 years. Have you seen evidence that Iran is accelerating its nuclear program?

The President: I haven't seen the report that you just referred to. I do share concerns about Iranian *intention to have a nuclear weapon*. I firmly believe that if Iran were to have a nuclear weapon, it would be a seriously destabilizing influence in the Middle East. And therefore, we have worked to build an international coalition to try to convince the Iranians to give up their

weapon, to make it clear that they have choices to make--whether the choice be isolation or missed opportunity to grow their economies. And so we take your--we take seriously the attempts of the Iranians to gain a nuclear weapon.

Q. Have you seen evidence of an acceleration though?

The President: You know, I'm not going to talk about any intelligence that I've seen, one way or the other. But I do want you to know how seriously we take the Iranian nuclear issue. As a matter of fact, it is the cornerstone of our Iranian policy. It is--and that's why we spend a lot of time in working with friends, allies, concerned people to rally international support, to make it clear to the Iranian people that there is a better option for them.

Now, we have no problem, no beef with the Iranian people. We value their history; we value their traditions. But their Government is making some choices that will continue to isolate them and deprive them of a better economic future. So we take the issue very seriously.

The President's News Conference February 19, 2007

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FRC ID:

39235

OA Num.:

CF 0841

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Chart	[Chart]	1	N.D.	P1/b1; P5;

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COLLECTION:

Counselor's Office

SERIES:

Gillespie, Edward (Ed) - Confidential Files

FOLDER TITLE:

[Iran] [Folder 2]

FRC ID:

39235

OA Num.:

CF 0841

NARA Num.:

851

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0301-F

RESTRICTION CODES**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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Mount Vernon, Virginia

November 7, 2007

We just had an extensive conversation, one that you'd expect good friends to have. We talked about Iran and the desire to work jointly to convince the Iranian regime to give up their nuclear weapons *ambitions*, for the sake of peace.

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October 29, 2007

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The President's News Conference

October 22, 2007

The President: Well, I don't know yet. What I'm about to tell you is, is that I'm looking forward to getting President Putin's readout from the meeting. I think one of the--the thing I'm interested in is whether or not he continues to harbor the same concerns that I do. And I say "continues" because when we were in Australia, he reconfirmed to me that it is--*he recognized it's not in the world's interest for Iran to have the capacity to make a nuclear weapon*. And they have been very supportive in the United Nations, and we're working with them on a potential third resolution.

So that's where my concerns--I don't worry about the pictures. I understand why they meet. I am--will continue to work with Russia, as well as other nations, to keep a focused effort on sending Iran a message that--"You will remain isolated if you continue your *nuclear weapons ambitions*."

Q. But you definitively believe Iran wants to build a nuclear weapon?

The President. I think so long--until they suspend and/or make it clear that they--that their statements aren't real, yes, I believe they *want to have the capacity, the knowledge*, in order to

make a nuclear weapon. And I know it's in the world's interest to prevent them from doing so. I believe that the Iranian--if Iran had a nuclear weapon, it would be a dangerous threat to world peace.

But this is--we got a leader in Iran who has announced that he wants to destroy Israel. So I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding world war III, it seems like you ought to be interested in *preventing them from have the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon*. I take the threat of Iran with a nuclear weapon very seriously, and we'll continue to work with all nations about the seriousness of this threat. Plus, we'll continue working the financial measures that we're in the process of doing. In other words, I think--the whole strategy is, is that at some point in time, leaders or responsible folks inside of Iran may get tired of isolation and say, "This isn't worth it." And to me, it's worth the effort to keep the pressure on this Government.

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Q. Have you seen evidence of an acceleration though?

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Now, we have no problem, no beef with the Iranian people. We value their history; we value their traditions. But their Government is making some choices that will continue to isolate them and deprive them of a better economic future. So we take the issue very seriously.

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