

# IAEA adopts resolution sharply rebuking Iran

AP, Vienna

nuclear weapons program.

The UN nuclear watchdog agency censured Iran for past cover-ups in a resolution adopted yesterday, and warned Tehran to be more forthcoming if it wants an investigation of suspect activities to end.

The resolution submitted by three European powers France, Germany and Britain was a product of days of diplomatic maneuvering at a meeting of the 35-member board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. It did not hand down sanctions against the country.

The document, passed by consensus, "deplores" that "Iran's cooperation has not been as full, timely and proactive as it should have been. It notes "with concern" that after almost two years, "since Iran's undeclared program came to light that a number of questions remain outstanding."

Hours before the resolution was adopted, the United States accused Tehran of bulldozing sites to prevent discovery of evidence of a

that this has a military dimension but we are still not in a position to say that this is exclusively for peaceful purposes," ElBaradei said Thursday.

The resolution notes that Iran was slow to give information about its centrifuge program and in some cases the information has been "incomplete and continues to lack the necessary clarity."

The resolution "deplores" the fact that "Iran's cooperation has not been as full, timely and proactive as it should have been." It also notes "with concern" that questions remain about Iran's nuclear program nearly two years after it came to light.

As the three European nations put last touches on the text, diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity said the agency was looking at intelligence that Iran was razing parts of a restricted area next to a military complex in a Tehran suburb.

Satellite photos showed that several buildings had been destroyed and top soil had been

removed at Lavizan Shiran, one diplomat said.

But Iran's chief delegate to the Vienna meeting, Hossein Mousavian, denied the allegation and told The Associated Press the IAEA was free to visit the site.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher later accused Iran of deception that "has gone to the extent of bulldozing entire sites to prevent the IAEA from discovering evidence of its nuclear weapons program."

Boucher said commercial satellite photography shows the complete dismantling and the razing of a facility at Lavizan Shiran, previously disclosed as a possible weapons of mass destruction location.

Most of the questions the agency wants answered relate to the sources of enriched uranium, including weapons-grade samples, found in Iran and the scope of Iran's centrifuge program, used to enrich uranium.



PHOTO: AFP  
European Commission Chairman Romano Prodi (L) greets EU commissioner in charge of external policy Chris Patten at European headquarters in Brussels yesterday for the second day of summit talks in a bid to agree on a historic constitution for the expanded bloc and a new chief for the European Commission.

## NUCLEAR CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

# Pak team in Delhi for 'result-oriented' talks

PTI, New Delhi

A high-level Pakistani delegation arrived in New Delhi yesterday for crucial expert level parleys with their Indian interlocutors on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), saying they are carrying "positive suggestions" and looking forward to "result-oriented talks".

"We are coming with a positive spirit and positive suggestions. We are here for result-oriented talks," Tariq Usman Haider, leader of the six-member Pakistani delegation told reporters at Delhi airport.

He said "delegations of both India and Pakistan have a responsibility for the people of the two countries".

Asked what were Pakistan's expectations from the two-day meeting starting on Saturday he said, "We don't negotiate through the media".

The two sides will discuss a

range of issues covering nuclear risk reduction and strategic stability at the meeting.

Haider, Additional Secretary in the Pakistan Foreign Office, will be assisted by former Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi and at present Director General of South Asia, Jalil Abbas Jilani and top nuclear and defence officials.

The delegation also includes Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan.

The Indian side will be headed by Sheel Kant Sharma, Additional Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.

The two sides are expected to pick up threads from the February 1999 Memorandum of Understanding dealing with nuclear CBMs signed in Lahore during the visit of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

# Vajpayee takes blame for BJP's defeat

PTI, Purni

The meeting comes ahead of the BJP National Executive meeting in Mumbai from June 22 to 24.

Mahajan said the outcome of elections would be discussed in detail at the unscheduled Parliamentary Board meeting where Gujarat issue would also be taken up.

Asked why political issues cannot be taken up at the National Executive, he said "you cannot discuss any issue threadbare where you have 150 people."

To a question if the Parliamentary Board has been convened in the backdrop of Vajpayee's statement on Gujarat, Mahajan said "the press is free to interpret".

About Vajpayee's today's comments accepting maximum responsibility for the party's defeat, Mahajan said the former prime minister was the supreme leader of the party and as a general accepted defeat and has not blamed anyone else.

Vajpayee has also said that it was a collective defeat, Mahajan said and added that in BJP victory or defeat is always collective. "We never blame one person for defeat or credit one person for victory. We win or lose collectively."

Asked whether Vajpayee made the remarks today under RSS pressure, Mahajan said he was never in the habit of working under pressure and "we don't want to give credit for his statements to anybody else."

Besides Vajpayee, Advani, Naidu, Jaswant Singh and Mahajan, the other members of the board are Murli Manohar Joshi, Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitly, Sanjay Joshi and Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Secretary of the board.



PHOTO: AFP  
Jamie S. Gorelick (L) and Thomas H. Kean of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks (9/11 Commission) listen to testimony in Washington, DC on Thursday at the headquarters of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The 9/11 Commission was wrapping up its series of hearings on events leading up to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001.

## SPECIAL COMMISSION SAYS American air defences 'unprepared' for 9/11

REUTERS, Washington

US fighter jets had virtually no chance to shoot down or intercept four hijacked planes on Sept. 11, 2001, because of confusion and poor communication among "unprepared" officials responsible for America's air defences, a special commission said Thursday.

The confusion was shared by Vice President Dick Cheney, who wrongly believed at one point that the military had downed "a couple" of aircraft under orders he conveyed, the panel said.

In a report that included chilling quotes from hijackers commanding the doomed aircraft, the commission's staff found a White House order to shoot down hijacked planes did not reach Air Force jets until after the last airliner had crashed.

Although fighter jets were airborne seven minutes after the first plane crashed into the World Trade Centre, military officials

received insufficient notice of the other hijackings to stop the planes, the staff statement said.

The civilian Federal Aviation Administration came under particular attack. "I think (FAA) headquarters blew it," said panel member Bob Kerrey, a former Democratic senator.

Gen. Ralph Eberhart, commander of the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), said that if the FAA had immediately reported all it knew to the military command, jets could have shot down the planes.

The earliest notice the military had of any of the hijackings was nine minutes before a plane crashed.

The report was presented at the final hearing of the 10-member government-established panel investigating the Sept. 11 attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people. In the audience sat grieving relatives of some of victims, several clutching photographs of their loved ones.

"We have some planes," a hijacker said from American Airlines Flight 11, which hit the north tower of the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. EDT. "Nobody move ... If you try to make any moves, you'll endanger yourself and the airplane."

In the two hours between the takeoff of the first hijacked plane at 8 a.m. and the fourth plane's crash, officials raced against time to discover the extent of the crisis.

The report said NORAD and FAA officials were "unprepared for the type of attacks launched against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001," and "struggled under difficult circumstances to improvise a homeland defence against an unprecedented challenge."

It said many front-line military and aviation personnel responded well, despite confusion, inaction and sometimes wildly inaccurate information at higher levels.

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