

RECOMMENDATION 9

Canada should continue to put pressure on Iran to abide fully by its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and specifically, to implement the undertakings made to the International Atomic Energy Agency following Iran's admission of non-compliance in October 2003.

For the past two years, the Iranian nuclear issue has been at the forefront of discussions at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Seven reports issued by the Director General of the IAEA have provided disturbing evidence of a clear pattern of failure by Iran to meet its nuclear non-proliferation obligations. In response to Iran's behaviour, the Board of Governors of the IAEA adopted six strong resolutions registering its serious concern. On September 27, Canada assumed the chair of the IAEA Board of Governors for a one-year term. One of our objectives is to ensure that the Iranian nuclear issue is brought to an early and fully satisfactory conclusion at the IAEA.

The Government favours a multilateral approach to this issue and as such has been very active within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the G8 and other organizations. The Government has also repeatedly raised concerns regarding the scope and the nature of Iran's nuclear program directly with the Iranian government. The Government supported the adoption by the IAEA on November 29, 2004 of yet another strong IAEA resolution concerning Iran's nuclear program, which represented a further step toward a potential permanent solution addressing serious international concerns about Iran's nuclear activities.

On November 14, 2004 the European trio of the UK, France and Germany concluded another agreement with Iran, based largely on an earlier deal reached in October 2003 which Iran did not fully implement. Under this most recent agreement, Iran has once again agreed to suspend all uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activities subject to verification by the IAEA. In return, the European trio has agreed to enter into discussions with Iran on a long term agreement involving expanded cooperation in a number of areas, including the nuclear sector.

The Government offered its guarded support for the European trio-Iran agreement. However, as the continuation of the suspension depends on the negotiation of a longer-term arrangement, the Government intends to remain vigilant. If Iran does not honour fully its new agreement with the European trio, the Government believes the IAEA should take immediate action and bring the Iranian nuclear issue before the United Nations Security Council. In the interim, the Government will continue to urge Iran to comply fully with its Nuclear Non-Proliferation obligations.