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Trump calls for work on new Iran nuclear deal to begin ‘immediately’

February 6, 2025 spacewar.com reported: “US President Donald Trump called Wednesday for a ‘verified nuclear peace agreement’ with Iran, after withdrawing from a similar deal in his first term and instituting a so-called ‘maximum pressure’ policy.

On Tuesday, ahead of a meeting with Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump signed an order reinstating the ‘maximum pressure’ policy against Iran over allegations the country is seeking a nuclear weapons capability.

‘I want Iran to be a great and successful Country, but one that cannot have a Nuclear Weapon,’ he said early Wednesday in a post on his Truth Social platform.

‘I would much prefer a Verified Nuclear Peace Agreement, which will let Iran peacefully grow and prosper.’

The post echoed a similar message in his press conference a day earlier with Netanyahu, who also said Tehran could never have a nuclear weapon...”

Taliban threaten to use US arms to thwart attempts to retake them

February 5, 2025 voanews.com reported: “The Taliban have warned that the military weapons left behind by the United States in Afghanistan now belong to them as ‘spoils of war’ and will be utilized to defend against any attempts to reclaim them. The statement marks the first official response from the internationally unrecognized government in Kabul to President Donald Trump’s pledge on the eve of his Jan. 20 inauguration to retrieve U.S. arms from the de facto Islamist Afghan leaders.

‘The weapons that America abandoned in Afghanistan, as well as those provided to the former Afghan regime, are now in the possession of the Mujahideen [or Taliban forces] as spoils of war,’ claimed Zabihullah Mujahid, the chief Taliban spokesperson, while participating in an X space session late on Monday.

‘The Afghan people now own these weapons and are utilizing them to defend their independence, sovereignty, and Islamic system. No external force can compel us to surrender these weapons, nor will we accept any demands for their surrender,’ Mujahid stated. ‘We will use these weapons to repel invaders who dare to seize them.’...”

Trump: US will ‘take over’ Gaza, level it and create ‘the Riviera of the Middle East’

February 5, 2025 timesofisrael.com reported: “US President Donald Trump on Tuesday declared his desire for the United States to ‘take over’ and ‘own’ the Gaza Strip, again stunning a global audience hours after doing so with his call for permanently relocating the coastal enclave’s entire population.

‘The US will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too. We’ll own it,’ Trump said in prepared remarks at the start of a joint press conference with visiting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after the two leaders met in the Oval Office.

There had been speculation that Trump would use his Tuesday meeting with Netanyahu to urge him to commit to carrying out the second phase of the ongoing Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal. The prime minister is under pressure from his far-right coalition partners to resume fighting at the conclusion of the first phase next month.

But Trump avoided publicly leaning on Netanyahu at all, instead praising his leadership and seemingly offering him a political lifeline by getting fully behind an idea — emptying Gaza — that has long been endorsed by the Israeli far right, and thereby giving ultranationalist lawmakers an incentive to keep the government intact...”

Trump reinstates ‘maximum pressure’ campaign on Iran

February 4, 2025 spacewar.com reported: “President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a memorandum to restore the so-called maximum pressure campaign on Iran from his first administration, which failed to achieve its goal of bringing about a new deal with Tehran to prevent it from securing a nuclear weapon. Instead, the Middle Eastern country has



Gaza Ruins

escalated its nuclear weapons program. Trump signed the National Security Presidential Memorandum at the White House prior to his meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

The memorandum states that the campaign consists of the departments of Treasury and State applying sanctions on Iran, the Department of Justice investigating financial and logistical networks tied to Iran and Iran-proxy groups and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations seeking to reinstate international sanctions and restrictions on Iran.

Trump had launched this maximum pressure campaign on Iran in 2018 after he imposed sanctions on Iran and withdrew the United States from a landmark President Barack Obama-era multinational nuclear accord aimed at preventing Tehran from gaining an atomic bomb.

Calling the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action "defective at its core," Trump sought to use sanctions to force Iran back to the negotiating table to secure a deal he felt was better, but that never materialized.

European partners attempted to maintain the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, not agreeing with Trump's unilateral move. Iran repeatedly violated its commitments under the deal before ceasing its implementation altogether in early 2021.

Amid the growing tensions between the two countries, the administration of President Joe Biden attempted to restart the JCPOA negotiations with Iran, but any remaining prospects effectively ended after Iran-backed Hamas attacked Israel in October of 2023..."

Iran secretly rushing nuclear weapon production, US believes – NYT

February 4, 2025 jpost.com reported: "A recent intelligence assessment has led American officials to believe that a covert team of Iranian scientists is exploring a more rapid, though less advanced, route to developing a nuclear weapon, *The New York Times* reported Monday.

The intelligence, reportedly collected in the final months of the Biden administration and shared with the Trump administration during the transition, suggests that Iran may be seeking a shortcut to turn its growing stockpile of enriched uranium into a functional weapon within months rather than a year or more, according to the report.

However, US officials maintain that Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has not made a final decision to pursue a nuclear bomb, *The New York Times* said. The intelligence assessment comes as Iran's regional influence is reportedly at its weakest in years, the report noted..."

Iran unveils new ballistic missile with range of 1,700 kilometers

February 3, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile on Sunday, claiming it has a range of 1,700 kilometers, *AFP* reported. The missile, named Etemad—meaning 'trust' in Persian—was showcased at a ceremony in Tehran attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian, according to the report.

State television aired footage of the missile, describing it as 'the most recent ballistic missile' produced by the Iranian defense ministry. With its range, the newly revealed missile is capable of reaching Israel, which Iran targeted twice last year amid the broader regional impact of the Gaza conflict..."

Russia slams Trump plan for 'Star Wars' missile shield

February 3, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "Russia on Friday criticised President Donald Trump's plan to build a 'Star Wars'-like missile shield for the United States, saying it risked turning space into an arena of 'confrontation'.

In an executive order on Monday, Trump called for the creation of an 'Iron Dome for America' to counter ballistic and hypersonic missile threats, reviving parts of a controversial Reagan-era plan nicknamed 'Star Wars' that would have placed missile interceptors in space.

'We regard this as yet another confirmation of the US intent to turn space into an arena of armed confrontation and to deploy weapons there,' Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a briefing.

Zakharova said the plan would expand Washington's missile deterrence to a scale 'comparable to Reagan's Star Wars', which she called 'odious. She said the move was primarily aimed at 'devaluing Russian and Chinese strategic deterrence capabilities. 'To put it mildly, these US approaches will not contribute to reducing tensions,' she said..."

