

Iran's President Arms Shiite Soldiers with Road Bombs

By Taryn Oesch
Staff Writer

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is arming Iraqi Shiite soldiers with road bombs that have ended over 170 American lives. These weapons are called explosively formed penetrators (EFPs), and originally come from the Revolutionary Guards Quds Force, which military experts say arms Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Guard and the Quds force report directly to Iran's leader. EFPs have been given to the Mahdi Army militia of the anti-American Shiite

cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, an important supporter of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. As far as military officials know, the weapons were all made after Saddam Hussein fell from power (mostly in 2006).

Iraq's Shiite government asked Iran to stop, and it has been told of American discoveries of Iran's activity. Since road travel has been made too dangerous because of these weapons, the US military has been using helicopters for transportation.

Associated Press reports that military officials, "gun-shy after the drubbing the administration took for the faulty

intelligence leading to the 2003 Iraq invasion...had held back because they were unhappy with the original presentation." As with Iraq, however, the truth is too dangerous to keep silent.

This news comes with the twenty-eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Ahmadinejad told Iranians that "the Iranian nation on February 11, 2007, passed the arduous passes and stabilized its definite [nuclear] right." He implied that Iran now is adept in nuclear fuel cycle technology. Many members of the United Nations, including the United States, believe that Iran is doing nuclear

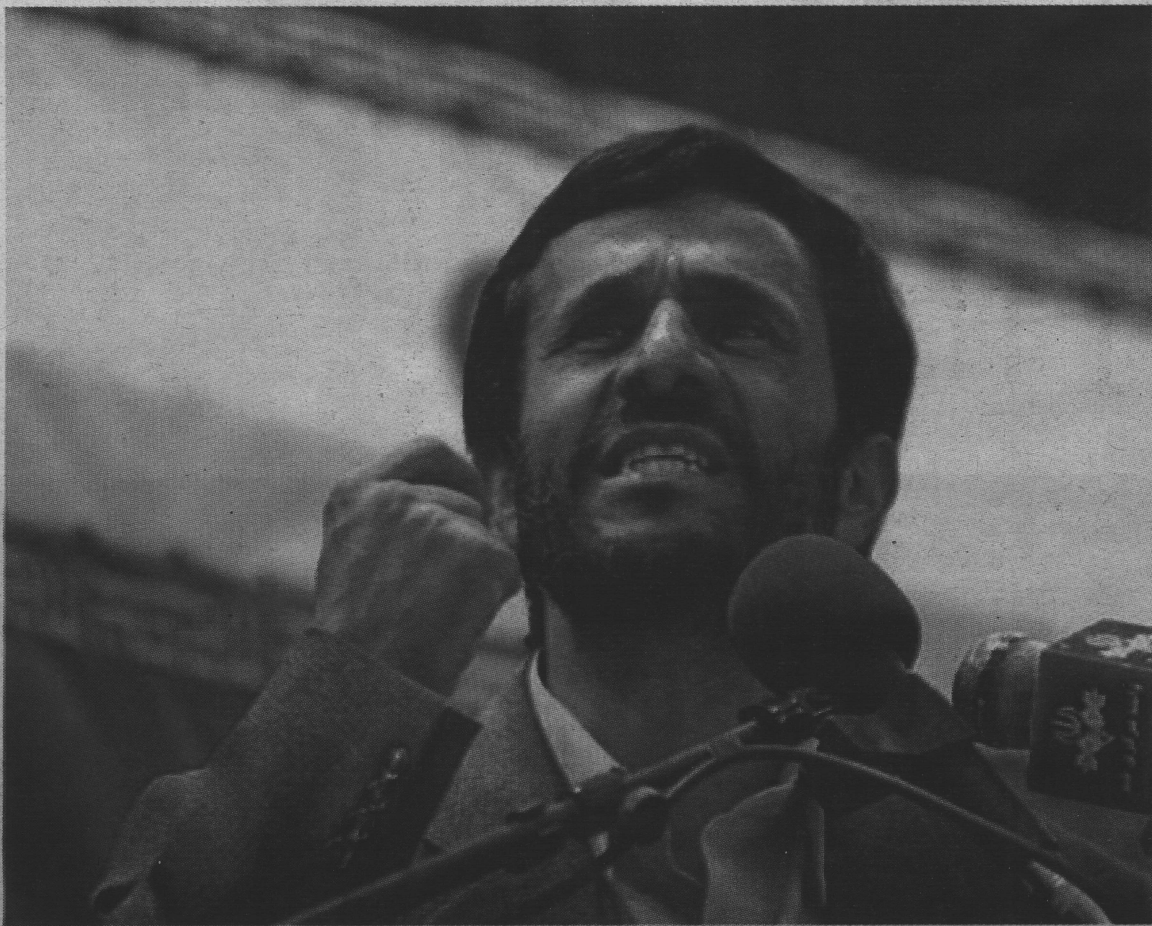
research in order to prepare nuclear weapons; Iran, however, says that the research is for electricity. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said that "There is a wall-to-wall consensus that the Iranian nuclear program is indeed military and aggressive and a threat to world peace." This belief is supported by Ahmadinejad's comments that Israel ought to be "wiped off the map."

Ahmadinejad announced that information concerning Iran's nuclear technology will be released little by little until April 9, the one-year anniversary of Iran's first enrichment of uranium. He implied that April 9,

Tehran would announce the installation of 3,000 centrifuges underground.

During Ahmadinejad's Sunday speech that included these comments, thousands and thousands of Iranians were in a Tehran square, shouting things like, "Death to America!"

It remains to be seen whether this hatred of America will combine with developing nuclear technology to create a very dangerous situation in Iran.



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

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