

April 26, 2006

Ambassador Spogli
United States Embassy
via Vittorio Veneto 119/A
Rome, Italy 00187

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

In this our sixth letter to you, we, U.S. Citizens for Peace and Justice-Rome, are writing to ask you to use your influence on the Bush administration to stop a preventive war with Iran. The presence of nuclear facilities in Iran cannot be used as a justification for military aggression by our government. The hypocrisy is striking since the U.S. government helped to construct those same facilities.

In 1976, then President Gerald R. Ford signed a directive that granted Iran the opportunity to purchase U.S. built reprocessing equipment and facilities designed to extract plutonium from nuclear reactor fuel. Some of the key people involved in this decision were Richard B Cheney, and Donald H. Rumsfeld (Ford's Secretary of Defense 1975-77). The current President of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz served in the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Gerald Ford. Wolfowitz, as you may know, is considered a prominent architect of the Bush Doctrine, which has come to be identified with a policy that permits preventive war against "potential" aggressors.

Even more striking is the hypocrisy in the U.S. threat of using nuclear weapons against a country that has no nuclear weapons in order to prevent them from building nuclear weapons, which even conservative estimates by U.S. intelligence put at 5-10 years away.

Before daring to think of launching any military action against Iran, our government needs to redefine its own contradictory policies more clearly. We would like to help by suggesting two principles:

1. We are against not only the utilization, but also the construction and stockpiling of nuclear arms. We support the use of economic and political -- not military -- pressure on those countries who have such arms or who are thinking of constructing them. We feel that policy change begins at home. Our government should lead the way by unilaterally reducing its nuclear stockpile and weapons development programs.
2. Iran, a signer of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, just as the U.S., is guaranteed the right by the United Nations to develop peaceful nuclear power programs. This is regardless of whether the U.S. government approves or disapproves of the politics or political leadership of that country. Iran has the legal right to produce and operate nuclear power plants, just like the United States.

Many U.S. citizens think that the Bush Administration is one of the most dishonest, secretive presidencies in the history of the United States. It has repeatedly demonstrated that the truth about its motives and agendas can only be found in what is not being reported to the American people. Ambassador Spogli, we are asking that you assist us in letting the American people know the whole story by opening up the debate and discussing all the issues.

Will this be a repeat of the Iraq debacle, where a foreign country -- which poses no imminent threat -- is declared to be our enemy in order to justify bombing it, in the hope of gaining control of its oil fields? Will this preventive war be "sold" to the American people as "a war of liberation for the Iranian people" with the purpose of "bringing democracy", which is precisely what we have NOT done in Iraq?

Is there a direct connection between the Bush administration's false claim that Iran poses an immediate nuclear threat and the opening of the Iranian Oil Bourse? This global oil exchange would give buyers the option of purchasing oil with euros instead of dollars, which financial analysts are suggesting would have a devastating effect on the U.S. economy.

Are they, once again using people's fear, this time of a nuclear war, to hide their real motives for military action against Iran- to redesign the Middle East, protect the U.S dollar's global strength and acquire more oil fields? Once again, it will be at the cost of the lives of American sons and daughters serving in the U.S. military, countless Iranian civilians and the global security. It will, once again, be at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer.

On April 29th, 2006, U.S. citizens will march in New York City in the national demonstration to ask the question three years later, "What (and whose) mission was accomplished?" in Iraq?

We ask for your support in stopping the Bush agenda, which can only result in another military, financial and humanitarian disaster.

Sincerely,

U.S. Citizens for Peace & Justice, Rome