

Addressing the Iranian Nation instead of the Islamic Republic

It is of course a well-established diplomatic norm that a government, elected or otherwise is presumed to be the representative of a nation. As such, all governments direct their communications and inquiries, as well as requests for discussions and negotiations to the respective representatives of a nation, the government of that country. This old tradition is justified even when dealing with a government that may not be fully supported by the nation that it is representing. Saddam's Iraq, Ghaddafi's Libya, Kim Jong-Un's North Korea etc. however, one thing that all such governments have in common, despite whether they are ideologically motivated or nationalistically, good bad or in between, is that they all put forth and implement an idea for growth and prosperity of their country. They still place their own country's interest regardless of the effectiveness of their approach, above all else. The exception is when an occupying force claims to be the legitimate representative of a Nation. In a not distant past, the Allied Governments did not negotiate with the Axis elements over the occupied countries of East Asia, North Africa, and Europe. They waited until legitimate governments that were representative of their nations were formed.

More importantly, the Allies aided and empowered the effective elements within those countries to be instrumental in pushing the occupying forces out. Historically speaking, there are three forces that once present and ready to work in unison spell out the downfall of an unpopular government. The force of the "People", the presence of a "New Political Environment", and "Foreign Assistance". The Iranian Nation has gradually but steadily become a unified and formidable force against the ruling government. After many evolutionary phases a very conducive and favorable Political Environment is also in place now. What remains is the Foreign Assistance (attention) which in this case

should be aimed entirely at the Nation, and not be split in a double play.

It is perhaps imperative that the ruling government in Iran be viewed and treated as an occupying force. This does not require a stretching of the imagination. This Government from its inception has unashamedly demonstrated this over and over. Khomeini, while en route, and when asked regarding how he felt about returning to Iran replied: "Nothing."! As of Day-One, IRI's officials had insisted that their intentions are not about Iran but rather the establishment of the Government of Allah on earth. For doing so, they have not even spent any efforts to strengthen and fortify their launching pad, which is Iran. But instead they have spent the Iranian assets to rebuild their favored lands such as Iraq, Syria and Lebanon from whence many of them have come.

Apparently, they must have known all along that Iran is just a temporary base and cannot be held forever.

Therefore, it was not worthy of any maintenance other than that which is necessary in order to extract all its nutrients before discarding the disposable vessel. Perhaps what deluded the Iranian Nation at the beginning but is deluding the other Nations to this day is the fact that the ruling clan happens to speak Farsi without an accent, or else the nature of this government as an occupying force would have left no room for doubt or debate. Whether one agrees that this is an anomalous government or not, the fact remains that forty years of having a desire for discussion with this government has proven to be futile. A simple explanation is that Iran is just a diversion and is never the real concern for IRI. These efforts have simply bought time for IRI during this long smoke and mirror exercise. An appropriate analogy may be the following. You may have watched a movie where a group of bank robber's take over a bank, and in the process hold many hostages. A long and fruitless negotiation with the Police Negotiators ensues. The robbers ask for many concessions including pizza, getaway vehicles,

helicopters and planes while the negotiators try to buy time and drag the affair until the SWAT team finds a way in. But all this cliché negotiation was a part of a delaying tactic by the robbers since they had other plans, such as breaking into the building next door to steal something more valuable and important, while at the same time some of the crew was working on an alternate and intricate escape plan.

In conclusion,

The behavior of this government cannot be reformed or recalibrated. Any reforms, restructurings or even controlled or slow fall back in to “normal” will pose an existential threat to this regime as would a vegetarian diet lead a hyena to its demise no matter what the rest of the animal kingdom may have told him about the benefits of a vegetarian diet. Trying to extract and organize the disgruntled Rear Guard of the regime in hopes of creating a new and amicable government will only create a cosmetic solution with limited capabilities since apples don’t fall far from their tree! A bad seed is hardly a good choice for beginning a new, healthy and promising orchard. An orchard that not only feeds its care takers but can supply the neighbors as well.

We should bear in mind that the Iranian Nation has for a few hundred years been suspicious of foreign interventions and ill intentions. These interventions were never intended to empower or improve the status of the Nation but rather to secure short- and long-term interests of the foreign governments and their weak and myopic Iranian counterparts. One exception may have been when a single American citizen, Howard Baskerville, “The American Lafayette of Iran” sided with the people against the autocratic regime of the time during the Constitutional Revolution. He was killed and buried in a Christian church in Tabriz. His funeral was attended by thousands of Iranians. He was eulogized by an

Iranian patriot by saying: “Young America, in the person of young Baskerville, gave this sacrifice to the young Constitution of Iran”.

Iranian dignity has never been a concern for the foreigners, and Iranians have been aware of this, and overly sensitive about it. When finally, during the green Movement the overwhelming chants on the streets were concentrated in a sentence: “Obama Obama, you’re either with them or with us”, it should have been a clue for all governments, that the Iranians have had their fill and cannot take it anymore. Shenanigans and behind the scene dealing against their true interests will only exasperate the situation and will weaken the mechanism of normalization post IRI. It is imperative for any and all governments to open a direct and empowering line of communication with the Iranian People. The success of such an approach may not be easily imagined, but from the Iranian perspective this unprecedented move will result in the most expeditious and dramatically successful outcome.

A.V.A