

Board of Governors

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Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda
(GOV/2006/8/Rev.1)

Communication dated 2 March 2006 received from the Resident Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom

The Director General has received a communication dated 2 March 2006 from the Resident Representatives of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, attaching a letter dated 27 February 2006 from the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom and the High Representative of the EU to the Secretary of the Supreme Council of National Security of Iran.

This communication and, as requested therein, the attached letter, are herewith circulated to the members of the Board.

Permanent Mission of France
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Vienna, 2 March 2006

Excellencies,

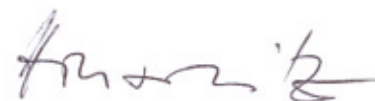
We are pleased to attach herewith a letter sent on 27 February 2006 by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom together with the High Representative of the European Union to M. Laridjani, Secretary of the Supreme Council of National Security of Iran.

We would be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated to the Members of the Board for their information.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



François-Xavier DENIAU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of France



Herbert HONSOWITZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Germany



Peter JENKINS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom

H.E. Mr. Yukiya AMANO
Chairman of the Board of Governors

Dr. Mohamed ELBARADEI
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency

Letter of Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, United Kingdom and the High Representative of the EU to Mr Laridjani dated 27 february 2006

''THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUGGESTION, WHICH YOU CONVEYED FIRST TO JAVIER SOLANA AND THEN TO OUR AMBASSADORS IN TEHRAN, THAT WE SHOULD MEET BEFORE THE NEXT IAEA BOARD MEETING TO SEE IF WE CAN AGREE A WAY FORWARD.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS. THAT WAS WHY WE AGREED TO A MEETING OF OFFICIALS LAST DECEMBER, AND AGAIN BEFORE THE 4 FEBRUARY BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, WHEN WE REAFFIRMED OUR READINESS TO SUPPORT IRAN'S RIGHT TO PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS SHOWS THAT MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS ARE MORE PRODUCTIVE IF THEY ARE PREPARED BY OFFICIALS IN ADVANCE. THESE HELP CLEAR AWAY UNDERLYING PROBLEMS AND MAKE AGREEMENT AT POLITICAL LEVEL MORE LIKELY. THAT IS WHY WE WERE READY, EVEN AT THIS LATE STAGE, FOR OUR POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO MEET WITH YOUR OFFICIALS THIS WEEK.

ON THIS OCCASION, YOU HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITHOUT PRIOR PREPARATION. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO THIS, TO LISTEN TO YOUR NEW IDEAS AND TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS. GIVEN THAT THERE WILL BE NO PREPARATIONS BY OFFICIALS WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR YOU IF WE SET OUT IN ADVANCE SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WILL BE CRITICAL FOR SUCCESS.

IN OUR JUDGEMENT, FOR SUCH A MEETING TO BE PRODUCTIVE, WE WOULD NEED TO CONCLUDE WITH A CLEAR PUBLIC COMMITMENT FROM IRAN TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE, NAMELY :

- THAT IRAN WILL RE-ESTABLISH FULL AND SUSTAINED SUSPENSION OF ALL ENRICHMENT-RELATED AND REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TO BE VERIFIED BY THE AGENCY, AS REQUESTED OF IT BY THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON 4 FEBRUARY .,

- AND THAT IRAN FULLY COOPERATES WITH THE IAEA, INCLUDING RESUMING VOLUNTARY APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL, WHICH IRAN SIGNED ON 18 DECEMBER 2003.

WE WOULD EXPECT AGREEMENT ON THIS TO BE ONE OUTCOME OF ANY MINISTERIAL MEETING. ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS WOULD RESULT IN A PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT, WHICH WOULD SET BACK OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES. BUT IF WE CAN AGREE ON THIS POINT, WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON OTHER ISSUES AND TO SEE IF WE CAN ESTABLISH FURTHER COMMON GROUND.

WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO CONSULT ALL OTHER IMPORTANT PARTNERS WHICH HAVE A STAKE IN THIS PROCESS, INCLUDING RUSSIA, CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, WITH WHOM WE AGREED ON THE WAY FORWARD AT OUR MEETING IN LONDON ON 30 JANUARY.

IF IRAN IS PREPARED TO TAKE THESE STEPS, THEN WE BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP CREATE A MORE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR DISCUSSIONS AT THE 6 MARCH BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, AND WOULD ALSO INFLUENCE HOW THE SECURITY COUNCIL PROCEEDS WITH THE ISSUE. OF COURSE, OTHER IMPORTANT IAEA BOARD REQUESTS REMAIN OUTSTANDING WHICH THE BOARD WILL ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER. OUR GOAL REMAINS TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION THAT MEETS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S CONCERNS''.