

Monterey Herald, Posted: 04/28/2014

Local peace coalition supports recent talks

The Peace Coalition of Monterey County supports continuing talks with Iran with due regard for international law, without threats, intimidation, or sanctions, allowing International Atomic Energy Agency inspections to assure nonproliferation of atomic weapons.

Here's why.

April meetings between Iran and six powers, including the United States, ended with 60 to 80 percent agreement on Iran's use of nuclear technology. As a party to the non-proliferation treaty, Iran is allowed to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes but must submit to International Atomic Energy Commission inspections.

Iran is complying. The U.S. government argues equipment for enriching uranium to five-percent for power can be modified to 90 percent for weapons. Although it has covert weapons development concerns, it has no evidence.

United States hostile history with Iran began in 1953 when the CIA helped oust democratically elected Mohamm Mossadegh, who planned to nationalize oil. The autocratic Shah ruled 26 years before being overthrown by today's theocratic regime.

With draconian sanctions, the United States tried to force Iran to buy rather than develop its own nuclear fuel, hoping for regime change. With United States actions bringing hardship to the Iranians, President Hassan Rouhani wants to restore United States-Iran relations.

Let's do it.

— *Joyce Vandevere, the Peace Coalition of Monterey County*