

National Intelligence Estimate, Russia: Iran never sought nukes

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Russia: Iran never sought nukes
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Russian FM Sergei Lavrov**Russia's FM Sergei Lavrov has said there is no proof suggesting that Iran has ever run a program for developing nuclear weapons.**

When asked to comment on the recent US National Intelligence Estimate, claiming that Iran suspended its efforts to develop nuclear weapons in 2003, Lavrov said the available data does not allow saying Iran has ever had a nuclear weapons program.

"We will assess the situation regarding a new UN Security Council resolution taking into account all these facts, including the US confirmation that it has no information about the existence of a nuclear weapons program in Iran," Lavrov told reporters after talks with his Armenian counterpart.

He said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should continue its work in Iran to clarify the outstanding issues regarding Tehran's nuclear case.

Lavrov voiced Russia's support for further Iran-IAEA cooperation adding that 'we will determine our future steps based on the IAEA's assessment.'

The recent NIE report has been considered as a blow to the White House which is seeking to convince other world powers to impose a third round of sanctions against Iran.

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