

Russia Expects US Flexibility with Iran as shown with North Korea

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Russia expects the United States to show the same flexibility in resolving the problem of Iran's nuclear program as it did with North Korea, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"I would like to note the efforts by the American side (which) made compromise steps toward Pyongyang and unblocked the six-party process," Lavrov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. "(I) would like to see the same flexibility, a sensible flexibility ... with regards to Iran's nuclear program."

Under a breakthrough agreement struck on Tuesday, Pyongyang will freeze the reactor at the heart of its nuclear program and allow international inspections of the site in return for about \$300 mln worth of aid.

The deal also includes provisions for the United States and Japan to discuss normalizing ties with North Korea and says Washington will begin the process of removing Pyongyang from its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

The accord was reached by North and South Korea, the United States, Japan, Russia and China four months after the secretive state stunned the world by testing a nuclear device.

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