

What was missing from Netanyahu's presentation

Had Iran wanted to prove it had abandoned any nuclear weapons-related program it should have consented to opening up its archives, sites and materials to international inspections.

By Ephraim Asculai / May 1, 2018

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a very impressive public presentation on the evening (Israel time) of April 30, 2018. It was impressive primarily because of its disclosure of an almost unbelievable intelligence coup: the “obtaining” by Israel of Iran’s top secret archive of its past efforts to develop, produce and test five Hiroshima-scale nuclear weapons.

The information gathered from these archives constitutes conclusive evidence that Iran lied throughout the years about its intentions, that at least up to 2003 it had an active project designed to accomplish its aims, that it set up another project to continue this work secret after 2003, and that the “deal” with Iran (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) dealt only partially and temporarily with the issue of preventing Iran from accomplishing its original program.

True, much of the information disclosed by the prime minister was known – but now it is authenticated. Former US President Barack Obama chose to ignore the potential and defer the issue to a future administration. But the looming crisis did not disappear. When the term of the JCPOA is up in a few years, Iran will legally resume its enrichment activities.

The deal was not a good one. It left Iran with the potential to resume its weapons development program at will, did not really deal with the issue of the development of the nuclear explosive mechanism, did not deal with the issue of missile development, and the verification mechanism is an inefficient one, dealing only with limited issues and not using all available inspections powers.

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