



Press Release

16 January 2006

Libya, not Iraq is the model for dealing with Iran

STEPHEN TWIGG, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre today said:

“Libya, not Iraq is the model for dealing with Iran, and bringing about a solution to the country’s nuclear ambitions.

“The current coverage in the media of the crisis over Iran’s moves to resume research and development of nuclear fuel is in danger of being portrayed in the same light as the build-up to the war with Iraq. While Iran’s move to resume nuclear fuel research is a worrying development, there is still the opportunity for a diplomatic solution to the current crisis.

“The deal achieved in December 2003 over Libya’s WMD, shows that a carefully choreographed set of negotiations can achieve a peaceful resolution to such a stand-off. It is now up to EU governments and the US to offer the same kind of carrot to Iran that was up for grabs for Gadaffi. Iran must take similar steps to develop a more diplomatic tone in its dealings with other international states and the United Nations.”

HUGH BARNES, Director of the Foreign Policy Centre’s Iran Programme said:

“The US and Western powers are treading on eggshells when it comes to dealing with Iran’s nuclear ambitions. As the US and European governments meet today to discuss the possibility of referring Iran to the UN Security Council, they know full well that moves against Iran such as sanctions or similar could damage other countries as much, if not more than they damage the Iranian regime.

“There is an urgent need for a private dialogue between representative of European governments and representatives from Iran. Considering the current stalemate and public posturing on the diplomatic front, this kind of back-channel could provide the same opportunity for a resolution, as it did with Libya.”

ENDS

Editor’s Notes

(put details about the report etc here)

For more information, please call Alex Bigham on 020 7388 6662 or 07830 195 812

For more information or a copy of the report, please contact Alex Bigham on 020 7388 6662 or 07830 195 812