

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1604

August 13, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Kerry:

During a briefing to reporters on August 3, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest claimed that a major difference between previous nuclear agreements and the recently completed agreement with Iran is that “in the case of our negotiations with Iran the U.S. doesn’t have to make any concessions.” As America’s highest-ranking diplomat, I ask that you confirm that the following provisions were the negotiating position of the United States government and not a negotiated concession:

- 1) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that Major General Qasem Soleimani, head of the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds force, who has the blood of hundreds of American service members on his hands, be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 2) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that Yahya Rarhim Safavi – IRGC Major General, former IRGC commander, and senior military adviser to Ayatollah Khamenei who stated that “the Zionists and the U.S. are aware of the power of Iran and Hezbollah, and they know that over 80,000 missiles are ready to rain down on Tel Aviv and Haifa” – be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 3) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that IRGC Brigadier General Hossein Salami, who in May said that Iran would “welcome war with the U.S.” and would “set fire to every military base from which a hostile U.S. plane takes off”, be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 4) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that the Quds force, which was involved in a plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States by detonating a bomb in a crowded Washington, D.C. restaurant, along with a bombing of the Israel and Saudi embassies in Washington, D.C., be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?

- 5) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that banks that have been sanctioned for supporting Iran's terrorist activities, the IRGC, and the Quds force be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 6) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that Bank Sepah, which the U.S. Treasury Department described as the "financial linchpin for Iran's missile procurement network", be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 7) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that Parchin Chemical Industries, which has been linked to Iran's ballistic missile program, be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 8) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that Iran Air, the national carrier of Iran, which was found to be transporting missile or rocket components to Syria in support of the Syrian government, be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 9) Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States that the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group (SHIG), a core part of Iran's ballistic missile program including responsibility for the Shahab-3 medium range ballistic missile, be provided sanctions relief? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?
- 10) In December 2013, President Obama said, "They [Iran] don't need to have an underground, fortified facility like Fordow in order to have a peaceful nuclear program, they certainly don't need a heavy-water reactor at Arak in order to have a peaceful nuclear program." Under the JCPOA, both of these facilities will remain open. Was it the initial negotiating position of the United States to unilaterally take a position that contradicted the president's statement? Or was this a concession made during the negotiations?

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress