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From: Abdalla, Alyce N
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Subject: Syrian leader: Mideast talks only to help Obama

TEHRAN (AP) - Syrian President Bashar Assad offered dim hopes Saturday for any success in Middle East peace talks, saying the White House is only using its mediation between Israelis and Palestinians to score political points in the United States. The comments by Assad during a one-day visit to Tehran followed talks with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Both leaders pledged to support "resistance" in the region, an apparent reference to Palestinian militants and others opposing Israel.