

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2011 8:35 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Iran Comments on Plot

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**From:** Meehan, Bernadette M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2011 08:19 AM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J; Wells, Alice G  
**Cc:** S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Subject:** Iran Comments on Plot

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**From:** Eyre, Alan E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2011 8:01 AM  
**Subject:** Iran Daily Brief, Wednesday October 19

**MFA SPOKESMAN: U.S. ACCUSATIONS A PLOT, PROOF MUST BE PRESENTED...:** Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said in an October 18 press conference that the accusations against Iran were a US plot and that the US should release any evidence that it has. In response to a reporter's question about whether Iran's request for documents constituted a retreat from Tehran's original position on the matter, he said, 'Our position has not changed. We believe that these claims are an American plot [...]. We believe that if they have some claims in this regard, they must first present their evidence. This evidence must be reviewed before their claim is proven.' He added, 'Before evidence is presented, it is not possible for an individual – whose identity is in question, whose current conditions are not known, and whose declarations and the ensuing analysis of the declarations are unknown – to make unilateral claims. He said that before such evidence had been presented, 'They introduced an individual as a suspect, then they considered him to be guilty and took his links to Iranian bodies for granted. They then began their threats and it is interesting that without any of those preliminary steps having been taken, they decided about the way Iran would be punished and they said that sanctions should be strengthened, and some even brought up the military option.' Referring to reports that US authorities have agreed to give Iran consular access to arrested suspect Mansour Arbabsiar, he said, 'They must show us the identity documents of this individual who it is claimed is an Iranian citizen. We have not received anything in this regard yet, although we have twice asked for documents.' He added, 'The US State Department Spokesman has made some comment in which it is not clearly stated how this consular access will take place.'

**...WHILE DEPUTY ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF SAYS ACCUSATIONS A PRETEXT FOR U.S. TO ENTER TALKS WITH IRAN...:** Referring to US accusations against Iran, Deputy Joint Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Massoud Jazayeri said on October 19, 'These actions carried out by the US are for engaging in discussions with Iran.' But he added, 'Hostile actions towards Iran have removed any chance of peaceful intercourse and talks will only take place with a new US.' (*Note: Jazayeri, who is in charge of Joint Armed Forces Cultural and Publicity Affairs, is one of 29 Islamic Republic officials who are under new EU sanctions since October 10.*)

**...AND FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA BASED ON PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD, AMAZED AT U.S. ACCUSATIONS:** Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said in an October 18 speech to foreign ambassadors stationed in Tehran that 'The Islamic Republic's constant and avowed strategy regarding its neighbors, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is based on peace, brotherhood, cooperation, and the preservation and strengthening of security in the sensitive Middle East and

Persian Gulf regions.' Salehi's address was devoted to US accusations that Iran had planned to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador in Washington. Salehi said that he had been 'amazed' when he heard the charges. He said, 'A precise and complete review of the details of the documents that have been published by the US government show that their accusations are based on the deductions of a security agent from the claims of individuals with criminal records and links to international trafficking networks.' He criticized the fact that Iran had not been given consular access to arrested suspect in the case, adding, 'Why, contrary to the norm, has no one made televised comments as the suspect's lawyer?' Salehi also faulted American authorities for presenting the case to the media before going through diplomatic channels