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Did the recent IAEA visit pave the way for a revival of the JCPOA?

Iran is currently tackling many different problems – the nuclear issue, providing drones to Russia against Ukraine, significant human rights violations. That makes it very hard politically at least, for European countries and the US, to look to a serious rapprochement. There is a strong intention to control and tackle Iran's nuclear program but the trend of Iran's behavior for the past decade is to engage in infinite negotiations, because they know that freezes further threats of sanctions or military action, while avoiding a commitment to what they consider a red line. So, I'm not optimistic.

Where does Iranian oil production stand today?

Under President Trump's maximum pressure, Iran was exporting about 250,000 b/d. After President Biden was elected, exports increased to 700,000 b/d and today, that number is almost hitting 1.5mn b/d. So, Iran doesn't need a consensus with the West to meet their new fiscal budget target, which they have set at 1.4mn b/d of oil and condensate exports.

Is Iran or Russia the bigger gainer in the alliance between them?

Iran sees the geopolitics around the world changing. There's no winner or loser in this game. Both countries are advancing their own agendas and getting what they want. Russia, along with China, is masterfully playing with everybody in the region. Russia is on very good terms with Saudi Arabia, and exporting to India, to China, and to the UAE. It's a very different dynamic from how the US conducts its international relations - one of, you're either with us or against us. ■

**Paraphrased Comments*

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