

US accepted Iran's seven-day proposal but sought to add more clauses: *Araghchi*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the United States agreed to Iran's seven-day proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz but wanted to add several more clauses to the agreement. The Iranian foreign minister in an interview with Iraq's Al Ekhbariya television said that negotiations with the US are continuing through mediators, including Pakistan and Qatar. He said Iran had previously submitted an initiative to the US side entitled the "Seven-Day Plan," which explicitly set out Tehran's conditions for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz which Iran closed after the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February. Under the proposal, the Strait of Hormuz was due to be fully reopened on the sixth day of the seven-day period, the minister said. "The Americans informed us that they agreed to these conditions, but they wanted to add several more clauses,"

he said.

Explaining the rationale behind the initiative, Araghchi said Iran sought to keep the path of diplomacy open, provided the other side honored its commitments.

He argued that Washington, rather than Tehran, is blocking progress and said the United States needed to implement the conditions to which it had previously committed itself.

"If they adhere to these conditions, they should know that the strait will be fully reopened, and after that, we will hold further rounds of negotiations until a final agreement is reached," Araghchi said.

The US and the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked war on Iran on February 28.

Iran responded with a series of retaliatory operations targeting US military assets and bases across the region.

The escalation ultimately forced the US and Israel to agree to a ceasefire on April 8 after Iran's retaliatory

operations inflicted significant costs on the aggressors.

The ceasefire put an end to the most intense fighting after Tehran and Washington signed a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding brokered by Pakistan and Qatar.

But Washington soon violated the agreement by failing to respect Iran's arrangements concerning the Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait remains closed, and Iran has made clear that it will not allow its reopening until the United States meets the demands Tehran has announced.

Diplomatic efforts are still underway to resolve the dispute between Tehran and Washington.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran amid the possibility of new conflict between Iran and the US.

Pakistan has played a key mediating role in the so far unsuccessful attempts



Abbas Araghchi
AFP

to end the war.

The trip was the fifth by Munir since the June agreement.

The US has not launched strikes on Iran since September, but the possibility

of a return to fighting looms over the country.

Munir's visit followed one by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday.

Defense minister: Iran's response to threats will be readiness, not rhetoric

International Desk

Iranian new Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi pledged to strengthen the country's military preparedness and defensive capabilities through new technologies, saying Tehran's response to repeated threats would be measured in enhanced readiness rather than rhetoric.

"I dedicated my first working hour to meeting the demands of the IRGC Aerospace Force and the Army's Air Defense," Akhlaghi wrote in a post on X on Wednesday.

Akhlaghi noted Iran's response to repeated threats would not be limited to rhetoric but would focus on strengthening military preparedness and defensive capabilities.

"For us, responding to repeated threats is not a war of words; it is turning threats into greater readiness and more effective defensive power," he said.

The minister added that Iran was pursuing its objectives through the development of new technologies. "We eat dirt, but we don't give an



Mehrdad Akhlaghi
ICANA

inch of soil," Akhlaghi declared.

The Iranian Parliament on Sunday approved Akhlaghi, a veteran engineer with deep experience in Iran's missile industry, as the country's new defense minister.

Akhlaghi succeeds Aziz Nasirzadeh, who was killed in US-Israeli attacks on Tehran at the beginning of the 40-day aggression.

In remarks to parliament on Sunday, Akhlaghi emphasized that Iran would deliver a strong response if its adversaries launched another attack against the country. "If the American-Zionist enemy once again makes a miscalculation, the response of the Iranian nation and the fighters of Islam will be surprising and extensive," he said. Akhlaghi also warned that

Washington and its allies would bear responsibility for the regional and international consequences of any renewed aggression against Iran.

His remarks came as the US officials have recently escalated rhetoric against Iran, threatening to bomb Iran's Kuh-e Kolang, which translates as Pickaxe Mountain.

Kuh-e Kolang is part of the mountainous terrain in Iran's central province of Isfahan, located close to the Natanz nuclear facility.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday raised the possibility of further strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Asked about reports that his administration was considering using the "mother of all bombs" against Iran, potentially after the US midterm elections, Trump claimed a suspected underground nuclear site known as Pickaxe Mountain could be a target for further US strikes.

"Now, we're looking at Pickaxe Mountain. We may have to go there," he said. "We'll take a shot at that one. We'll knock it out fast."

Putin: Russia ready to mediate between Tehran, Washington

International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russia is ready to discuss possible Russian mediation between the United States and Iran to end the conflict between the two countries.

The Russian president made the remarks in a meeting with White House envoy Steve Witkoff in Saint Petersburg.

"You know that we have a special, trusting relationship with Iran, with our partners in Iran, our friends, built over decades, and if there's anything we can do to resolve this crisis, we'll be happy to do so. You're also well aware of our proposals in this area," Putin told Witkoff.

His remarks came days after his Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met Iranian officials in Tehran.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during a joint press conference with



Lavrov said Iran, Russia and many other countries share the view that regional disputes cannot be resolved by military means and must instead be addressed through diplomacy and political solutions.

Araghchi said they discussed a broad range of regional and international issues, including the Persian Gulf, West Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, Iran-US negotiations and developments in Ukraine.

The Iranian foreign minister described his talks with Lavrov as "important, intensive and productive".



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (R) greets US special envoy Steve Witkoff prior to their meeting in Saint Petersburg on October 21, 2026.
SPUTNIK

He added that relations between Iran and Russia were strategic and had evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership, adding that ties had entered a new phase following the signing and implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement by the two countries' presidents.

Iran condemns 'illegal' US actions against Cuba

The Foreign Ministry condemned the United States' ongoing illegal actions against Cuba, denouncing Washington's sanctions and attempts to intimidate Cuban officials and public figures.

In a statement on Tuesday, the ministry noted that the sanctions, pressure, and intimidation imposed on Cuba by Washington for more than seven decades violated the United Nations Charter and ran counter to international law and human rights principles.

It cited an arrest warrant issued for former Cuban president Raúl Castro by authorities in Florida, calling it a "criminal and illegal act" and urging respect for Cuba's sovereignty, independence, and right to self-determination, Press TV reported.

The arrest warrant was announced on Monday by Florida Attorney General



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James Uthmeier against Castro, who led Cuba as president from 2008 to 2018. It accuses Castro of "conspiracy to commit first-degree murder" in connection with, what the verdict calls, "the 1996 downing of two civilian aircraft in Cuba's airspace."

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel rejected the warrant in a post on X, describing it as a politically motivated legal maneuver directed against Castro

and Cuba. "This reprehensible action against the Army General this morning in a pathetic Miami circus, with an electoral backdrop, has no, nor will it ever have, the slightest legal sense and even less practical sense," he wrote. The Cuban president added that the measure "reflects the difficulties they (the United States) face in trying to justify the [American] blockade and the collective punishment of our people."

The ministry called on the US government to be held accountable for the devastating consequences of these policies for the fundamental human rights of the Cuban people.

The statement concluded by reaffirming Iran's solidarity with Cuba and its position that the Cuban people's right to determine their own future had to be respected.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

