

Sarkozy talks tough on Iran

by UPI

PARIS - Tougher sanctions against Iran are the only way avoid the "catastrophic" alternative of a nuclear outcome, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said. Sarkozy, in a blunt speech Monday, predicted "an Iranian bomb or the bombing of Iran" if Iran doesn't curb its nuclear enrichment program, The New York Times reported. Addressing France's ambassadorial corps, Sarkozy didn't say France would participate in, or support, military action against Iran, The Times reported. Even raising the idea of force, however, was likely to be seen by Iran as a warning of the outcome if it continues its course of action, and by the Bush administration as acceptance of its stand that the use of force cannot be excluded, the Times reported. Sarkozy, reiterating France "remains hostile" to the U.S.-led war in Iraq, also called for a deadline for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, which he said is a nation is "falling apart in a merciless civil war."

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