

IAEA: Iran cooperating in nuke probe

by UPI

TEHRAN - A new report reveals a split between U.N. arms inspectors and the United States and its allies regarding how to contain Iran's nuclear program. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran was cooperative and answered questions about past suspicious activities and, while Tehran's uranium enrichment effort is growing, the output is lower than expected. "This is the first time Iran is ready to discuss all the outstanding issues which triggered the crisis in confidence," Mohamed ElBaradei, the IAEA director general, told The New York Times. "It's a significant step." However, the Bush administration and its allies disagree. "There is no partial credit here," State Department spokesman Tom Casey said Thursday. "Iran has refused to comply with its international obligations, and as a result of that the international community is going to continue to ratchet up the pressure." ElBaradei said new sanctions should not be sought until Iran had "a chance to prove its stated goodwill." The goal is to wrap up the investigation into Iran's nuclear program by December. By then, ElBaradei said, it should be clear whether Iran is "serious" or "trying to take us for a ride."

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