

NOTE

Sanctions Won't Work

BJ writes :

Iran has restarted its nuclear enrichment programme. This follows the nuclear explosions made by India, Pakistan and North Korea. These steps have been taken within the confines of international law. India and Pakistan had not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). North Korea had legally pulled out of the same in 2003. Iran has the right to develop nuclear energy sources within the NPT. Yet the prominent world powers imposed sanctions against India, Pakistan and North Korea after their nuclear explosions and are slated to do so against Iran presently.

The sanctions imposed against India failed. Rather they had the salutary effect of prompting India to make even more efforts at indigenous development of technologies which the developed nations were unwilling to part with such as the supercomputer. Sanctions are in place against North Korea for more than a decade, yet that country has managed to make a nuclear explosion. The proposed sanctions against Iran are likely to have a similar ending because the nature of technology is like the water of the sea. Just as water spreads evenly across all oceans easily so also technology spreads across all lands given time. The Big Five do not appear to understand this reality and are trying to artificially restrict the spread of technology and to keep their exclusive control over the same intact.

In his book *Vision 2020*, President Abdul Kalam writes: "Just as there has been a racial element in human history, it would appear that this element is entering into the technological arena too. Developed nations feel that only they are capable of developing certain types of aerospace, missile and nuclear technology. But we should ignore this and go ahead with our technology development."

The upshot is that the sanctions against North Korea and Iran are likely to fail just as they did against India and Pakistan. The problem is likely to become more difficult in the coming times. S Nihal Singh reports that according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, 49 countries, other than the present nine, have the capacity to make the bomb. The Big Five—the permanent veto-wielding powers of UN security council—cannot perpetuate the present arrangement to hold on to their monopolistic control over advanced technology. They are bound to fail to implement non-proliferation in the face of ineffectiveness of sanctions. ❄❄❄