

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to you today because we are concerned by ongoing Russian activities with Iran regarding advanced conventional weapons sales, including air defense systems. Such Russian cooperation with Iran, at the same time that Russia is reportedly working to terminate Iran's nuclear weapons program, necessarily undermines those efforts.

According to open source and other reporting, we have learned that Russia and Iran are discussing alternate arrangements to the S-300 contract that Russia signed with Iran several years ago even though Russia agreed in 2010 that it would not sell this advanced system to the Iranian regime. It was disappointing, but not surprising, that Russia took steps in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929 that same year to ensure such sale, or sale of a related advanced system, would not be prohibited under the resolution. Reports of ongoing Iranian and Russian negotiations are especially alarming because of the sensitive timing involved with the ongoing discussions over Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Any outcome that includes Russia selling this or a related advanced air defense system to Iran is unacceptable. Accordingly, we urge you to make clear to Russia that any such sale would violate the Iran, North Korea, Syria Non Proliferation Act (INKSNA) and may trigger sanctions under that Act as well as Section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act. This includes the Rosoboronexport company, for which the Obama Administration lifted INKSNA sanctions despite public reports of ongoing sanctionable activity in 2010.

We also urge you to ensure the highest level of intelligence cooperation possible with Israel and any other allies who may have security interests in Iran not being able to receive or use any such advanced Russian military technology and hardware.

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We respectfully request an expeditious response to this inquiry as we consider potential legislative responses to the clear threat that the potential ROE transfer of advanced conventional weapons systems to Iran poses to U.S. national security interests and our allies in the region.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Chairman
Armed Services Subcommittee on
Strategic Forces



Heana Ros-Lehtinen
Chairman
Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on
Middle East and North Africa