Will the US Cont Threates Against

by Janet Jagan

As far back as July, 2003, I wrote in this column: “Other double standards are becoming public property, like the labeling of Iran as an axis of evil and the subsequent efforts to push that country to its knees, to admit having nuclear power and maybe another excuse for another invasion.” And as an aside, in these columns, I too pointed out before the Iraqi invasion that there were no weapon of mass destruction there – the excuse given by Bush and his warmongers to start the disastrous war in Iraq. And, of course, there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

The same scenario, like a bad movie being promoted at heavy expense, has been going on now for some four years against Syria and Iran, but mostly gearing up for an offensive against Iran.

The London “Guardian” reported in February last that “claims, reminiscent of the intelligence fiasco surrounding the Iraq war, coincided with a sharp increase in international tension as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that Iran was defying a UN Security Council ultimatum to freeze its nuclear programme.”

But the “Guardian” also reported that much of the intelligence on Iran’s nuclear facilities provided to UN inspectors by US spy agencies has turned out to be unfounded. This point, made back in February, must be kept in mind following the recent reports this month on new intelligence reports from the USA which state that Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003. This latter world shattering news throws President Bush’s accusations and probable preparation for another invasion, completely out of gear.

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What is so important in the analysis of the Bush threats to Iran regarding the accusation that it is building nuclear weapons is this recent information from US Intelligence that completely contradicts the Bush claims. The report of NIE said clearly “We do not know whether (Iran) currently intends to develop nuclear weapons.” It was the same NIE that five years ago concluded that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction, which helped pave the way for the March 2003 invasion.

Said the NIE: “Tehran’s decision to halt its nuclear weapons programme suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear weapons than we have been judging since 2005.” It is significant that no tough threats were made to North Korea which openly flaunted its nuclear warheads and even tested one publicly some months ago. But then geography has an important role to play in the Bush Administration’s warmongering. Yet, back in October, President Bush was hinting about a 3rd World War because of Iran’s alleged nuclear arms programme.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, initiated by the Bush regime, have caused unbelievable hardships in both countries. Millions have fled from Iraq to Syria and Jordan and away from the war zone, but within Iraq. The total numbers are about 4 million refugees. The war destruction has led, in both countries, to tens of thousands of deaths and injuries and much lower living standards - no electricity, water, or regular education, sparse food supplies and extreme poverty.

At the same time, the US is spending billions on the war, estimated recently at $607 billion! If, for a minute, we could imagine that amount of money, instead of being wasted on killing, being used to feed and provide health care to the millions of the world’s poor, what a better world this would be!