

Iran nuclear deal

An overview of the deal and what's next for Trump's administration

October 16, 2017

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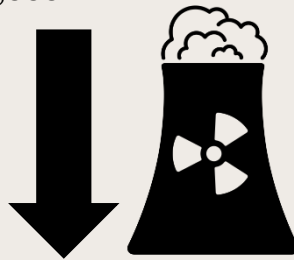
JCPOA's main initial provisions were successfully implemented

Major JCPOA provisions implemented

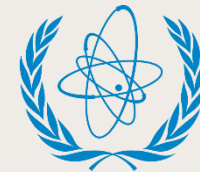
Iran gave up 98% of nuclear material



Iran reduced number of nuclear centrifuges to 6,000



Iran permitted the IAEA to inspect past military activities



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

P 5 +1 have lifted sanctions, freeing around \$50 billion in Iranian assets



Iran filled major plutonium reactor with concrete

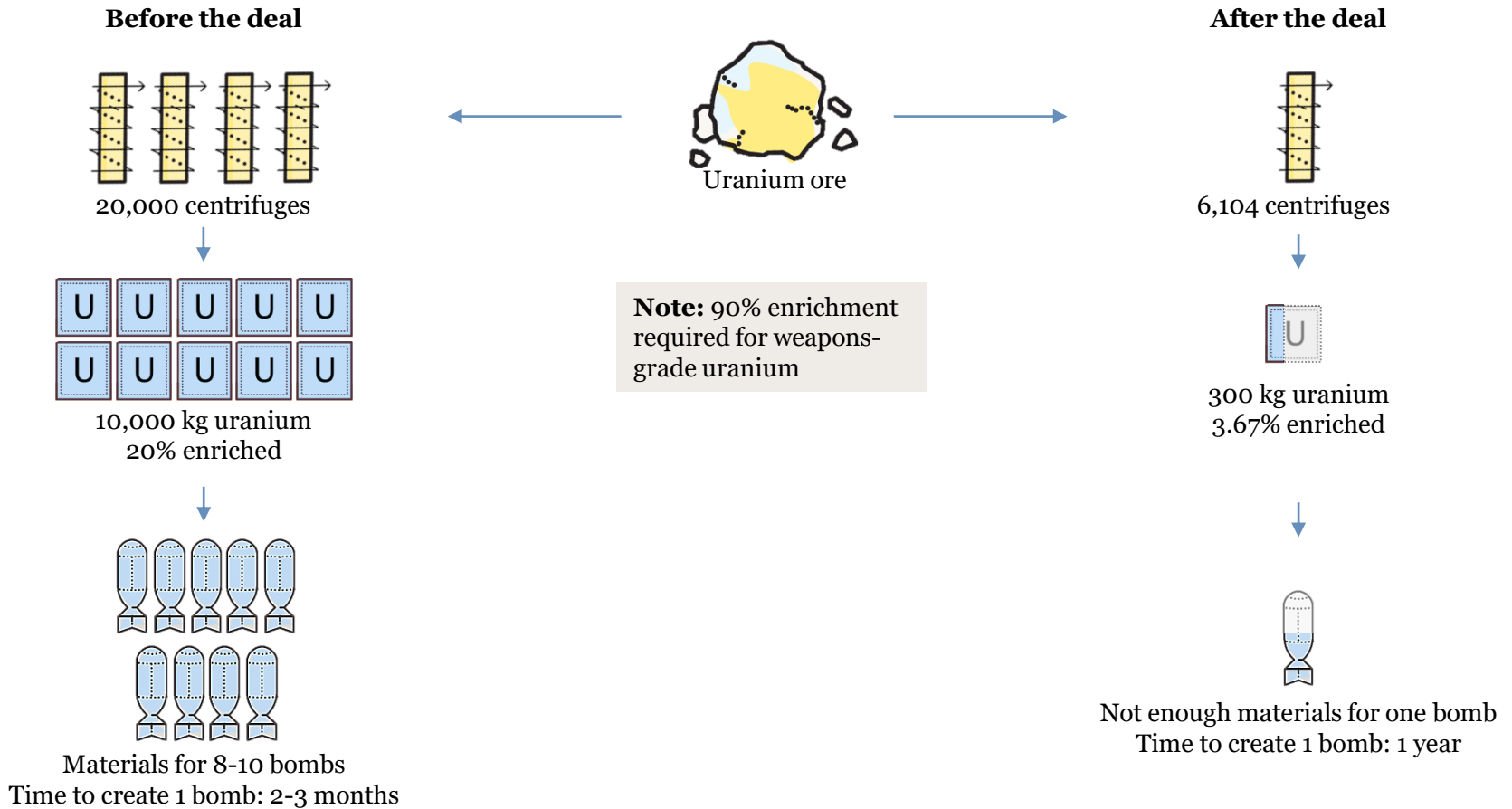


IAEA inspectors monitoring Iranian nuclear facilities



Sources: David Sanger, "Iran Sticks to Terms of Nuclear Deal, But Defies U.S. In Other Ways," The New York Times, July 13, 2016; Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, "Factsheet: Implementation of the Iran Nuclear Deal," January 15, 2016; World Nuclear Association, "Nuclear Power in Iran," May 4.

The effect of the deal on Iran's nuclear weapon manufacturing process



Sources: The White House, "The Historic Deal that Will Prevent Iran from Acquiring a Nuclear Weapon"; New York Times, "The Iran Nuclear Deal – A Simple Guide," July 14, 2015.

Sunset clauses: dates after which restrictions imposed on Iran by the nuclear deal will not apply

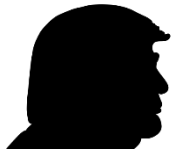
Timeline of JCPOA sunset clauses



Sources: Jennifer Williams, “A comprehensive timeline of the Iran nuclear deal,” Brookings Institution. July 21, 2015

Concerns over the deal linger due to US-Iran tensions

Reasons for concern over JCPOA's future



The Trump administration has publicly criticized the Iran deal



Iran's sponsoring of terrorism and ballistic missile testing



Iranian public disappointed with limited financial benefits



Domestic resistance to deal in both Iran and U.S.

Sources: National Journal Research, 2017

Timeline of the Trump administration’s Iran policy

Most recently, Trump has moved to decertify that Iran is complying with the nuclear deal



Sources: Tom DiChristopher, “Trump’s Iran nuclear deal review faces a dangerous path,” CNBC, April 25, 2017; Kelsey Davenport, “Timeline of Nuclear Diplomacy with Iran,” Arms Control Association, October 2017

Three potential outcomes of Trump decertifying the Iran nuclear deal

Decertifying the May 2015 Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA) will lead to one of three results

Congress doesn't act on decertification and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains unaffected



Congress levies sanctions against Iran and the JCPOA is voided, in which case Iran could continue pursuit of nuclear weapons at the pre-deal rate



Congress amends INARA to add “triggers” to the current JCPOA to generate sanctions automatically if and when the agreement is violated. This is Trump’s preferred option



Likely outcomes:

- Decertify that Iran has met the terms for sanctions relief under INARA, which requires the president to certify that Iran is in compliance with the JCPOA every 90 days
- The decertification gives Congress 60 days to respond
- Trump’s preferred outcome is that Congress amend the INARA to restrictions of Iran’s ballistic missile program and destabilizing activities, including giving support to anti-government Houthi fighters in Yemen
- Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Tom Cotton (R-AR), chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Senate Armed Services Air Land Subcommittee, respectively, have been working on legislation that would trigger US sanctions if Iran’s nuclear program comes within a year of obtaining a nuclear weapon
- Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) said decertification “harms America’s credibility on the world stage,” and Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) said Trump’s decision will “put us in a weaker position on Iran negotiations.”

Sources: Tara Copp, “Trump to stay in Iran nuclear deal, ask Congress to revise enforcement,” Military Times, October 13, 2017.