

**Theme:** Globalisation - Peacekeeping

**Text:** Address to UN General Assembly by Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran (NY, 17 Sept. 2005) — Extract

Ironically, those that have actually used nuclear weapons and continue to produce, stockpile and extensively test such weapons; that have used depleted uranium bombs and bullets against tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of Iraqis and Kuwaitis, and even their own soldiers and those of their allies, afflicting them with incurable diseases; that blatantly violate their obligations 5 under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); that have refrained from signing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); and that have armed the Zionist occupation regime with weapons of mass destruction — they are not only refusing to remedy their past actions, but, in clear breach of the NPT, are trying to prevent other countries from acquiring the technology necessary to produce nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

10 All of these problems emanate from the fact that the elements of justice and spirituality are missing in the way powerful Governments conduct their affairs with other nations. After 11 September, a particular radical group was accused of terrorist activities, although it was never explained how such huge intelligence-gathering and security organizations had failed to prevent such an extensive and well-planned operation.

15 Why have Powers that not so long ago were supporting the activities of such groups in Afghanistan, thereby portraying themselves as supporters of human rights and of the Afghan people, overnight turned into their most fierce critics? Are we to believe that their benefactors — those very same hegemonic Powers have lost control? If so, would it not be better for those Powers to adopt an honest and transparent approach to the international community, provide 20 precise information about the main elements and their weapons and financial support system, and accept responsibility for their inhuman actions against nations and countries, thereby assisting peoples and nations in addressing the roots of terrorism correctly, wisely and sincerely?

We must endeavour to achieve sustainable tranquillity and peace based on justice and 25 spirituality. Terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are two major threats facing the international community. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the main victims of terrorism and chemical weapons, fully appreciates the difficulties involved in combating these menaces. Today, the most serious challenge is that the culprits are assuming the role of the prosecutor. Even more 30 dangerous is that certain parties, relying on their power and wealth, are trying to impose a climate of intimidation and injustice on the world. They are bullying others, while using their huge media resources to portray themselves as defenders of freedom, democracy and human rights. [415]

### **Annotations**

**1** stockpile – keep a growing number of weapons in a store **2** depleted [Germ. Abgereichertes] uranium [DU] – DU is extremely strong and can be used to build penetrating weapons **6** Zionist occupation regime – Israel **10** emanate from – come from **12** radical group – Al Qaeda **15** such groups – Taleban **17** benefactor – one that gives aid [in this case the US] **18** hegemonic Powers – states that control others [here US & allies] **24** sustainable – long-lasting **30** certain parties – US & allies

### **Assignments**

**1)** Who and what is threatening peace according to President Ahmadinejad? [**Contents** – avoid quotations, use your own words]

**2)** Analyse the use of rhetorical means in this extract. Pay special attention to rhetorical questions and the choice of words. (How do these means underline the speaker's message?)

[**Analysis** – work closely on the text]

**3)** Is it helpful in the process of peacekeeping that the Iranian president is able to present his political views to the United Nations? Refer back to the above extract in your answer.

[**Comment** – give reasons to back your views]