

IAEA AND IRAN

PRESS RELEASE

Rao Muhammad Akhtar - Press Secretary

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD

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Member Senate of Pakistan

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Islamabad, September 26, 2005: Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has expressed disappointment over the IAEA decision to refer Iran nuclear case to Security Council in November 2005.

Talking to Press, he maintained that it is clear that America pressurized IAEA to take this step against Iran in violation of internationally established rights to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Referring to Pakistan's stand on the issue, Prof. Khurshid said, "Pakistan should have voted against this resolution as was done by Venezuela, but it is 'half consolation' that Pakistan abstained in this crucial voting." He observed that what is being done in respect of Iran is not only a threat to that country but also a serious warning to Pakistan. "The defence of Pakistan's nuclear assets" noted Prof. Khurshid, "lies in opposing any American intervention in Iran."

Calling for Pakistan to have a pro-active policy and not "a meek reactive stand" on this issue, he said a threat to Iran is a threat to Pakistan as it endangers the right of all countries of the region to develop nuclear technology for the protection of their vital interests and civil use. He urged that OIC must take a firm stand on this issue.
