

WORLD

- World Main Page
Interactives
War On Terror
Iraq: After Saddam
Listening Post
Letter From Asia
Diplomatic Dispatches
World Video
Audible.com Downloads
WIRELESS ALERTS
E-MAIL ALERTS
PODCASTS
RSS - ALL FEEDS

E-MAIL THIS STORY PRINTABLE VERSION TAG WITH del.icio.us

Chavez To Back Iran If U.S. Invades

Venezuelan President To Iranian President: 'We Are With You'

HAVANA, Sept. 14, 2006



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, left, chats with Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage as they review the troops during a welcoming ceremony at the Jose Marti airport in Havana, Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006. (AP Photo/Roberto Candia)

(AP) Venezuela's president pledged Thursday his country would support Iran if it was invaded as a result of its nuclear standoff with the United Nations Security Council.

The U.N. has demanded Iran suspend uranium enrichment amid concerns by some nations that it could be used for nuclear weapons. Iran insists the enrichment is aimed solely at producing electricity.

"Iran is under threat; there are plans to invade Iran, hopefully it won't happen, but we are with you," Hugo Chavez told Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at a meeting of the Group of 15 developing nations on the sidelines of a Nonaligned Movement summit in Cuba.

Chavez said Venezuela stands with Iran in this time of crisis, just as it stood by Cuba, where Fidel Castro handed over power to his brother Raul while recovering from intestinal surgery. If they don't defend each other, no one else will, Chavez said.

"Under any scenario, we are with you just like we are with Cuba," Chavez said. "If the United States invades Cuba, blood will run... We will not have our arms crossed while bombs are falling in Havana or they carry Raul off in a plane."

FAST FACT

Iran insists that its enrichment efforts are peaceful, aimed solely at producing electrical energy.

Cuba, blood will run... We will not have our arms crossed while bombs are falling in Havana or they carry Raul off in a plane."

Ahmadinejad gave a relatively mild speech, urging his fellow leaders to work together to help the G-15 nations achieve their full potential. Then Chavez took over, saying he didn't want to leave Havana without a statement reflecting resounding support for the Iranian, Cuban and Palestinian people.

It was not clear what Chavez could actually do to help Iran. He has vowed in the past to cut off Venezuelan supplies of oil to the U.S. in case of an invasion of Cuba.

The meeting was a milestone for Cuba — the first time Raul Castro represented his nation at an international summit as acting president. But Chavez stole the show — saying Fidel Castro had given him permission to speak longer because Raul wouldn't talk much. Raul Castro seemed to take the job in good spirits, giving Chavez a bear hug after the meeting.

After visiting Fidel Castro on Thursday, Chavez said he was walking and singing and was "almost well enough to play baseball."

Trading the green fatigues usually wears as Cuba's defense minister for a dark suit, Raul Castro briefly praised Iran and other developing nations for trying to create "a better, more just world."

Nuclear proliferation and Middle East violence were the hot topics as scores of leaders began showing up in Havana for the Nonaligned Movement summit, which now includes two-thirds of the world's countries.

Some diplomats said the developing world must unite to demand the creation of a Palestinian state. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh said the movement would consider a resolution to "condemn Israel for the hideous war waged against Lebanon."

Others said containing nuclear weapons was the key issue.

©MMVI, The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

Now you're in the public comment zone. What follows is not CBS News stuff; it comes from other people and we don't vouch for it. A reminder: By using this Web site you agree to accept our Terms of Service. Click here to read the Rules of Engagement.

Comments

Post Your Own Comment

Iran needs help because?

Posted by janem4 at 08:17 PM : Sep 14, 2006

+ report this comment

Post A Comment

You must be registered to comment on CBSNews.com

Login Name Forgot Login Name?

Input field for login name

Advertisement for Dentyne ice. Text: DENTYNE'S HELPFUL HUNTING TIP WHEREVER YOUR MOUTH ENDS UP TONIGHT, MAKE SURE IT'S FRESH. HAPPY HUNTING

CBS NEWS VIDEO

WORLD VIDEOS

ALL WORLD VIDEOS

- Dark Past Of Montreal Shooter
2 U.S. Soldiers Die In Attack
Montreal Gunman's Aftermath
More Blood In Baghdad

TOP VIDEOS

ALL VIDEOS

- Katie Couric Makes History
Race For The White House
New Strategy Against Terrorism
Friends On Irwin's Death

More Video

Advertising Links | What's This?

Password [Forgot Password?](#)

Your Comment (No HTML; Comments are limited to 1500 characters.)

Your acceptance of the [Rules of Engagement](#) is required for you to post comments. Your use of the CBSNews.com Web site acknowledges your acceptance of our [Terms of Service](#).

Accept

INSIDE WORLD



IAEA: Iran Nuclear Report 'Outrageous'
U.N. Blasts House Committee Claims On Tehran's Weapon-Making Capability

- [Pope Sets Off Furor In Muslim Nations](#)
- [4 U.S. Soldiers Die In Iraq Violence](#)
- [Police: Montreal Gunman Killed Himself](#)
- [More](#)

TOP STORIES

- [Pope Sets Off Furor In Muslim Nations](#)
- [IAEA: Iran Nuclear Report 'Outrageous'](#)
- [Ford Pushing Harder To Get Smaller](#)
- [1 Dead, 50+ Sick From Tainted Spinach](#)

MOST POPULAR STORIES

- [N.C. Cohabitation Law Struck Down](#)
- [1 Dead, 50+ Sick From Tainted Spinach](#)
- [Pope Sets Off Furor In Muslim Nations](#)
- [Police: Montreal Gunman Killed Himself](#)

Wireless Alerts: [CBS News To Go](#) **E-Mail Sign-Up:** [Breaking News](#) | [Today On CBS News](#) | [60 Minutes](#) | [48 Hours](#) | [The Early Show](#) | [CBS Sunday Morning](#) | [News Summaries](#)

Recommended Sites: [CBS Corporation](#) | [The ShowBuzz](#) | [CBS.com](#) | [CBS SportsLine](#) | [UPN.com](#) | [ETOnline.com](#) | [The INSIDER](#) | [CBS Store](#) | [CBS Careers](#) | [CBS Cares](#)

[Site Map](#) | [Video Site Map](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Help](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [CBS Bios](#) | [Internships](#)



SEARCH

Stories Videos The Web

Powered by