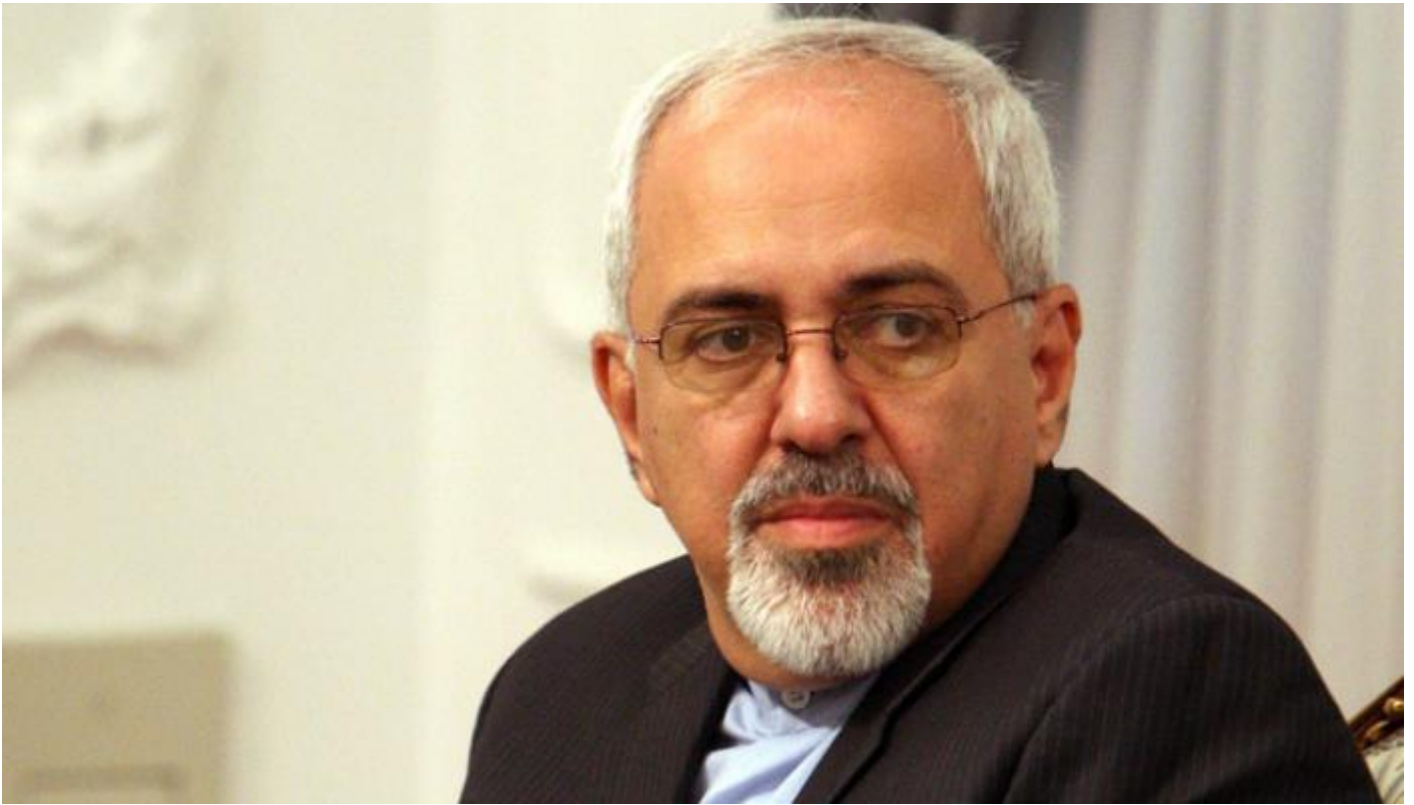


Iran Gives Washington Chance to Prove Goodwill



Tehran, October 8 (RHC)-- Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Tehran is ready to give Washington the opportunity to prove its goodwill toward the Iranian nation.

The historic outreach between the two countries is a test for Washington, Zarif said in an interview with the Iranian television broadcast late Saturday. He said that Washington must understand that pressure and sanctions are not effective when it comes to the Iranian people.

Iran's foreign minister also referred to his country's nuclear energy program, saying Tehran seeks a "win-win" scenario when nuclear talks resume this month in Geneva with the six world powers. Zarif stressed that any nuclear deal should allow Tehran to maintain its uranium enrichment while providing greater assurances that the program remains peaceful.

Iran and the six major world powers -- Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States plus Germany -- have held several rounds of talks on a range of issues, with the main focus being on Tehran's nuclear energy program.

The foreign ministers of Iran and the six countries held their latest round of negotiations at the United Nations in New York on September 26th, where they agreed to hold further talks on October 15th and 16th in Geneva, Switzerland.

The United States, Israel and some of their allies have repeatedly accused Iran of pursuing non-civilian objectives in its nuclear energy program, with the U.S. and the European Union using the unsubstantiated claim as an excuse to impose illegal sanctions against Tehran.

Iran has categorically rejected the allegation, stressing that as a committed member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is entitled to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

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