

Unknown

From: Trita Parsi [tparsi@jhu.edu]
Sent: Saturday, December 24, 2005 8:30 PM
To: 'Siamak Namazi'
Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

Hey,
 Great seeing you today.

I guess the plan you list below is for us to first come up with some rec's, try them on our group, then take the modified version to Burns? That sounds good.

I think Burns is interested in hearing our views across the board. My responsibility as the NIAC president is to also present the majority view per our statistics and mention the minority view. Other than that, we should stick to the game plan.

I am not sure whether a third person will be included or not. If so, it will be the Legislative Director that we are about to hire.

Re the views of the group, the statements and views expressed that I found most surprising came at times when the US war in Iraq was positively perceived. The timing was more strongly connected to perceived successes in Iraq, not developments in Iran. In fact, I haven't heard anything that surprising after Ahmadinejad. Anyways, let's talk more about this in person when we get a chance.

PS. If possible, lets not discuss this via your NED account. Those emails are public due to the freedom of information act
 tp

From: Siamak Namazi [mailto:siamakn@ned.org]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2005 11:47 AM
To: Trita Parsi
Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

Let's try to get the group together again before we meet with Burns. That way, we will have fresh ideas. That was the 18th, huh?

It's not a bad plan for us to sit and try to come up with some policy recs. Actually, if you like, let's have our Burns meeting (the private one) and come up with some policy ideas, then pitch them without mention of why to the group to see what sort of critiques we need to consider. I understand that we will have to focus the meeting with Burns on expat issues, but (1) most of our group is comprised of Iranian-Americans and (2) Burns is likely to ask us about generally what up in Iran too. Good to be prepared.

And, don't forget the emotionalism of the times when judging what people say right now. There is such a disappointment with A-N that all sorts of things might come out in a meeting among friends. I seriously doubt that these are the policy recs made in public too. Not to mention, if they are, this forum we have is the ideal place to dissuade, no?

sia

From: Trita Parsi [mailto:tparsi@jhu.edu]
Sent: Fri 12/23/2005 11:41 AM
To: Siamak Namazi
Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

He he

Sia – I have heard people from our group say in their own words that they don't think it necessarily is a bad thing.

Now, harf mofte, so perhaps that doesn't count ☺ Though we agree 99%, this one last percentage points is kinda important ☺

Nevertheless, people are entitled to their own views - in fact, intellectual disagreements are GOOD things!

I am only telling you this to explain my healthy skepticism as to why I don't believe it will be easy to come to common and sustainable policy recommendations. I wish you were here when the Iraq war started. It was interesting to observe the dynamics of the ever changing viewpoints and gave a clearer idea of people's red lines. This applies to all, not just our group

On that note, when is the next session? Early Jan? Or before New Years? If you want, I'd be happy to meet with you before hand to draft a few recommendations for the group to choose between; that way, perhaps it will be easier to draw the discussions away from talk and towards action?

And if you prove me wrong on the above, I will donate \$100 to the World Zionist Organization and drink a Latte at Starbucks ☺

When are we seeing each other on Saturday?
tp

From: Siamak Namazi [mailto:siamakn@ned.org]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2005 10:59 AM
To: Trita Parsi
Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

come-on trita, EVERYONE in our group is in agreement that war is a terrible thing. you guys need to stop looking at your differences, which are small, and see how much you agree on. basically, everyone of us believe that the way to fix Iran's problems is through engagement. now, we might have differing ideas about the timing and methods of engagement, but not much else.

anyway, see you on saturday

cheers,
sia

From: Trita Parsi [mailto:tparsi@jhu.edu]
Sent: Fri 12/23/2005 10:30 AM
To: Siamak Namazi
Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

Well, as I said, the war will come after nov 2006. ☺
But seriously, it's a very serious situation, which is why I hoped that our meetings would focus on avoiding that possibility. But I am not sure all of us agree it would be a bad thing if there was a war

From: Siamak Namazi [mailto:siamakn@ned.org]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2005 10:14 AM
To: Trita Parsi

Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

I love your message: there's a potential war coming, but right now there are more important things to do, like spin on a bike? :-)

From: Trita Parsi [mailto:tparsi@jhu.edu]

Sent: Thu 12/22/2005 3:38 PM

To: Siamak Namazi

Subject: RE: what do you think of this?

Only read half it, but I am in agreement. I still believe that a military clash is likely after nov06. gotta run though, my spinning bike just arrived! Will write more soon

From: Siamak Namazi [mailto:siamakn@ned.org]

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2005 3:22 PM

To: tparsi@jhu.edu

Subject: what do you think of this?

<http://open.g00ya.com/politics/archives/041200.php>

Siamak Namazi
Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

International Forum for Democratic Studies
National Endowment for Democracy
1101 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-5002

T: 202-293-0300 x. 625

F: 202-293-0258