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Understanding coercive nuclear reversal dynamics: a comparative case study of US coercive diplomacy against the nuclear programs of Iran, Libya, and South Africa

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

1. What does the nuclear program represent for Iran?
2. Russia suggested converting uranium in a Russian-based facility to satisfy Tehran's isotope needs, but Iran rejected this proposal. Why was the domestic enrichment issue so important for Iran?
3. For a long time, Iran's main goal was to avoid a referral to the UNSC; however, a couple of months after Ahmadinejad took office, the Iranian dossier was transferred to the UNSC. What impact did the referral have on Tehran's nuclear strategy/decision-making?
4. What is the role of the Supreme Guide, the President, the Secretary of SNSC and the guards in Iran's nuclear decision-making?
5. What role did the regional security dynamics play in Iran's decision to comply or defy UNSC Resolutions?
6. Why did Iran refuse to comply with UNSC Resolution even though they were undermining the interests of critical actors related to the nuclear program?
7. What effects did the covert actions (killing of nuclear-related scientists and cyber-attacks have on Iran's nuclear policy?
8. Was the possibility of a military attack from Israel or the US a credible threat to Tehran's leadership?
9. The financial and commercial sanctions imposed by the US (Executive Orders, Senate) and the EU seriously impacted the elites and the population. However, surprisingly, President Ahmadinejad increased the number of centrifuges, a primary source of tension with the US. What were the drivers of these actions, in your opinion?
10. In general, will you argue that coercion failed with Iran because of the lack of credible incentives or credible threats?

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF JEAN YVES NDZANA NDZANA

I was born in Yaoundé in 1993 and I obtained my Bachelor's Degree (2014) and Master 1 (2015) in Peace and Development Studies from the Protestant University of Central Africa (PUCA), Faculty of Social Sciences and International Relations (FSSRI) in Cameroon, where I delved into the intricate interplay between peacebuilding and global development. I was later awarded a scholarship from the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) in France, and I pursued a 1-year Master's program in Advanced European and International Studies (2016). Here, my research culminated in a thesis exploring the contribution of third actors to the diplomatic resolution of the Iranian nuclear crisis, with a specific focus on China and Russia's pivotal role to the 2015 Iranian nuclear agreement (JCPOA). Further honing my expertise, I was admitted to and graduated from the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw (2017), specializing in NATO's deterrence policy, a critical component of Western security infrastructure.

As a dedicated PhD candidate at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) at Leiden University, my research interests primarily revolve around coercive diplomacy, nuclear weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). My academic pursuits have extended beyond the confines of traditional education. Indeed, I actively participated in esteemed seminars and research initiatives, including the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School's research project "Africa and the Atom," and the 2023 SIPRI Summer School among others. Furthermore, I have authored several articles on nuclear proliferation issues, shedding light on the nuanced intricacies of this complex area of research. Additionally, I contributed a chapter to a book on "Dynamics of the Changing Global Security Order: Emerging Trends and Key Issues in Asia." (2023)

Proficient in French and English, with basic knowledge of Dutch and Spanish, my academic journey thus far has been driven by an unwavering commitment to understanding and addressing the pressing challenges facing our world today. Armed with a diverse skill set, a wealth of knowledge, and an insatiable curiosity, I am poised to make meaningful contributions humbly but confidently to the fields of global security and diplomacy, advocating for a safer and more peaceful world for generations to come.