

Iranian foreign minister says U.S. will regret leaving nuclear deal



United Nations, April 20 (RHC)-- Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif says Tehran has a variety of options in store that will make the United States "regret" leaving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Iran has a wide range of options both inside and outside of the JCPOA and surely, the reaction from Iran and the international community will be unpleasant for the Americans," Zarif told reporters upon arrival in New York City to attend a United Nations General Assembly meeting over sustaining peace.

Under the deal, which entered into force in January 2016 when former U.S. President Barack Obama was still in office, Iran agreed to limit parts of its peaceful nuclear program in exchange for removal of all nuclear-related sanctions.

The Iranian foreign minister said the U.S. government, especially the administration of President Donald Trump, has failed to stay true to its commitments and said it was up to the European signatories of the deal to preserve it and force Washington into keeping up its obligations.

Trump has been a vocal critic of the Iran nuclear deal which was signed between Tehran and six world

powers -- the United States, France, Britain, Russia, China and Germany.

"If the European countries want to preserve the deal they have to make it sustainable for Iran;... they need to impose pressure on the United States in order to compel the US, encourage the US to implement what it undertook under the deal," Zarif said. "Unfortunately, it hasn't been doing that."

Having called the JCPOA "the worst deal ever," Trump insists that it favors Tehran. That is why he has urged Congress and the Europeans to "fix" the agreement or he will kill it by May 12th, when he has to re-certify Iran's compliance.

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