A Nuclear Iran?
Why this particular topic?

• State Department internship
• Personal Curiosity
• Model UN General Assembly Plenary
• Research Question?
The NPT, IAEA and their problems

- NPT (Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty) developed after WWII and Japan
- IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) the UN’s watchdog for treaty enforcement
- Loopholes in the Treaty and the IAEA’s lack of capacity
Iran’s nuclear program

- Initiated in 1959
- Strong ties to Russia, China and Pakistan
- 2002: opposition group tattles
- EU3 negotiations
Theoretical Analysis: Realism

- Realism: fear and the desire for power drive world politics
- Surrounded by other nuclear States and US occupation of neighbors
- History of invasions
- Iran’s desire to become a regional power
- Nuclear weapons more powerful for deterrence
Reasons Not To Stop

• No incentive for Iran to terminate program
• Nationalistic pride
• Desire to “wipe Israel off the face of the map”
So What Happens Now?

- WHEN not IF – estimates vary significantly
- Destabilization of Middle East (possible nuclear showdown with Israel)
- Possible US military strike? No options are off the table yet…