

Nuclear Iran could trigger proliferation

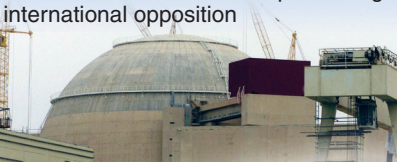
Iran's disputed nuclear programme could prompt a regional cascade of proliferation in the volatile Middle East. In the span of 11 months between February 2006 and January 2007, at least 13 countries announced new or revived plans to pursue or explore civilian nuclear energy

Iran: Plans to open Bushehr nuclear reactor in 2009 despite strong international opposition

Israel: Considered *de facto* nuclear weapons state with sizeable arsenal despite policy of "nuclear ambiguity"

Syria: Apparent nuclear reactor destroyed by Israeli warplanes in 2007

Jordan: Wants to develop nuclear energy by 2015 but stresses will work in accordance with international norms



Egypt: Plans for first reactor to be operational by 2017

Gulf Cooperation Council: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Oman undertaking joint feasibility study with IAEA into nuclear energy programme. UAE has signed nuclear framework agreement with France

Turkey: If current nuclear-energy plans are fulfilled, NATO member could have working nuclear reactor by 2020

Morocco: Plans first reactor by 2017

Algeria: Uranium-rich nation has advanced nuclear-science programme. Unlikely to agree to forgo enrichment and reprocessing processes

Tunisia: Undertaking feasibility study for nuclear power plant

Yemen: Forced to rescind \$15bn plan to construct five nuclear reactors due to economic and security issues