
From Poison to Partnership: Germany, the EU-3 Initiative and Transatlantic Cooperation vis-à-vis Iran

Presentation

at the 2006 APSA Annual Conference

Conference Group on German Politics

(Panel 1: Germany after the 2005 Election:

How Much Change, How Much Continuity?)

The Argument

Pro-active German/European cooperation with Washington on Iran occurred, because Germany's coalition governments wanted to avoid the domestic costs of joining a possible U.S.-led military intervention.

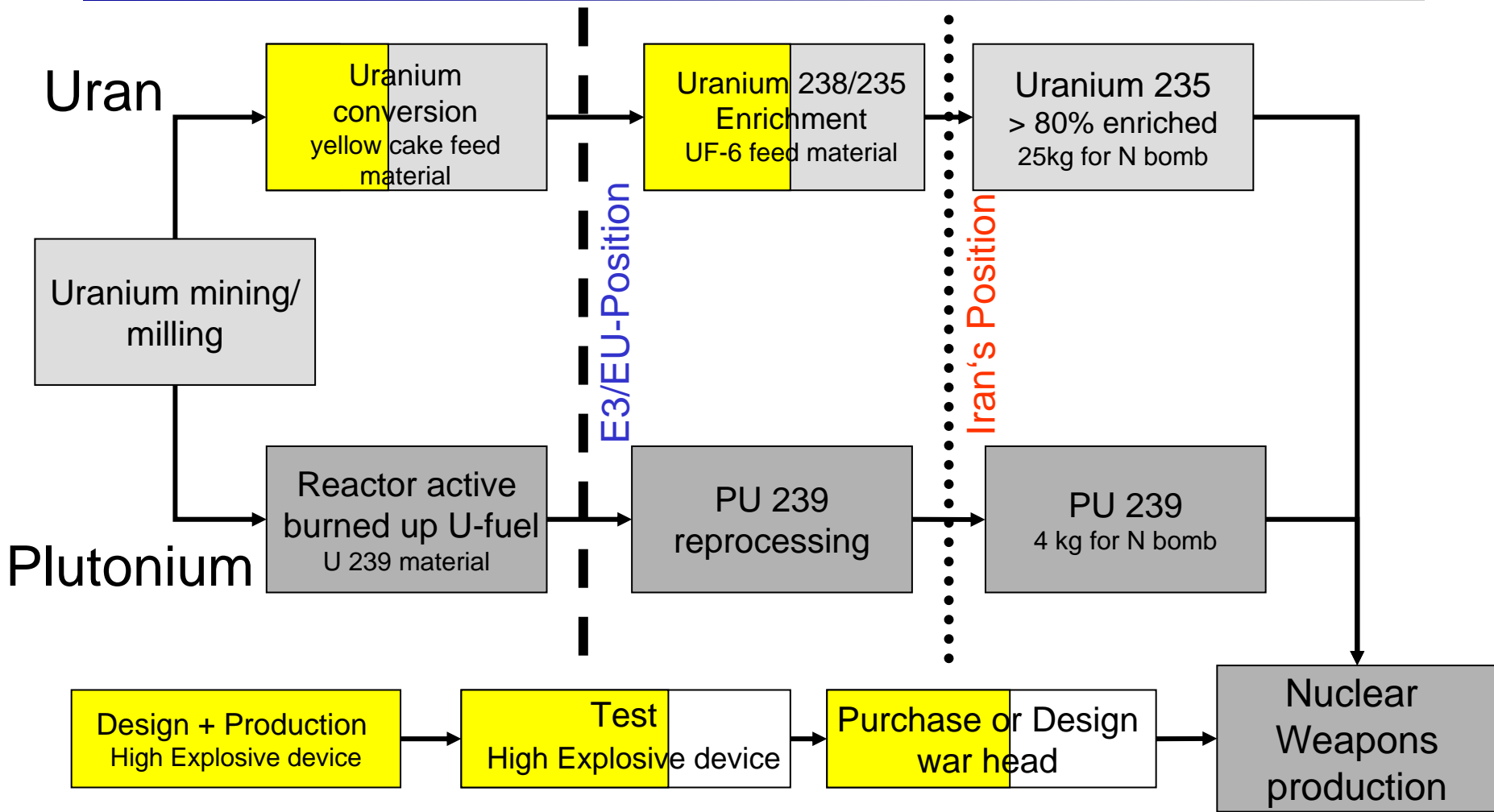
Propositions on observable behaviour

1. a determined effort to influence U.S. decision making through intra-European coalition building. Policy makers should express their motivation for cooperating is to limit the coalition's policy goals (**Agenda control**);
2. a consistent effort to work through international organisations that have a representative decision making body, provide independent information on member state's behaviour and which reassure the sceptic public because they cannot directly authorize military action (**moderation by representative institutionalisation**);
3. a consistent effort to display the conflict with Iran as one that focuses on deviant behaviour (behavioural outlaw) rather than on being (ontological outlaw), because the strategy of "inclusion" for a behavioural outlaw" reflects more closely the consensual nature of Germany's democracy than an adversarial strategy of isolation (**adversarial vs. inclusive approach**).

Policy outlook

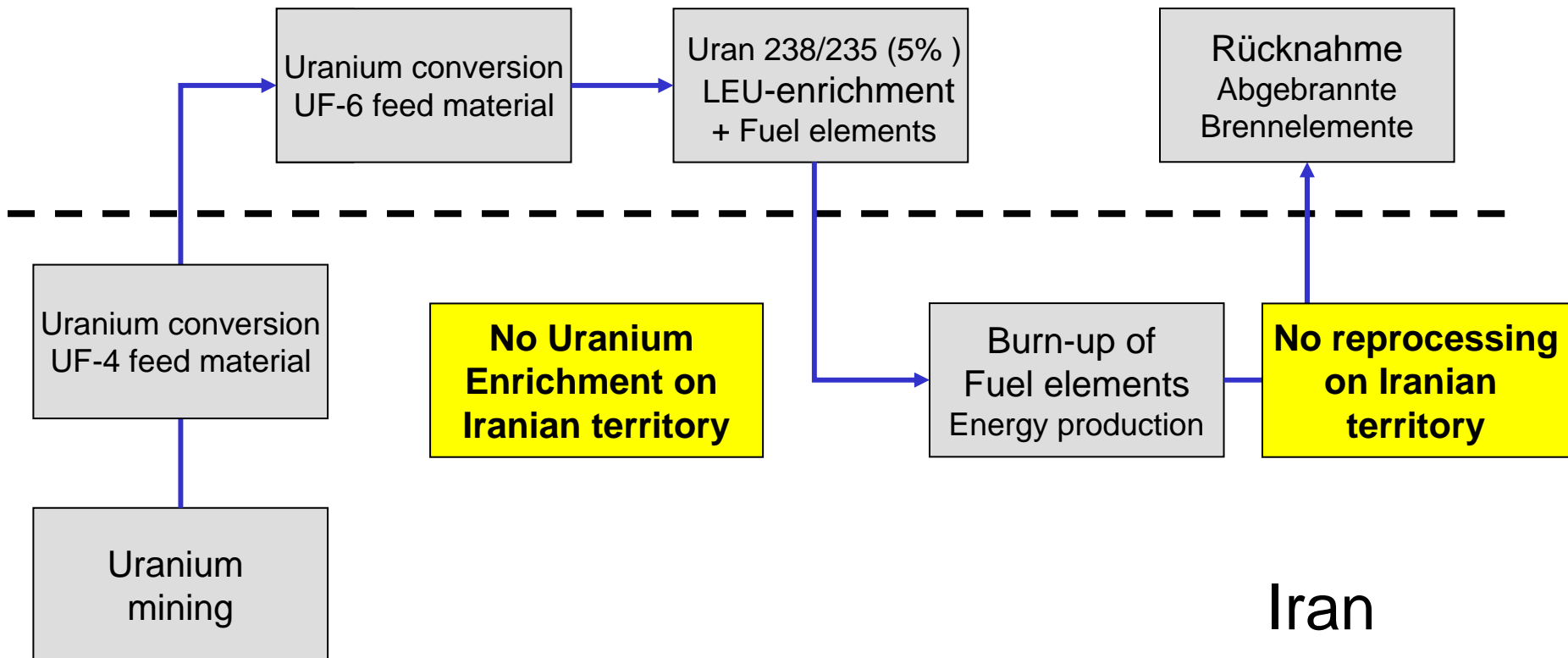
Recent reasoning from Chancellor Merkel and former Foreign Minister Fischer that draws an analogy between Iran and pre-WW II and Nazi-Germany indicates that the German policy elite has begun to shift its inclusive approach towards Tehran.

Nuclear Weapons: Uranium + PU production (current status of the Iranian program)

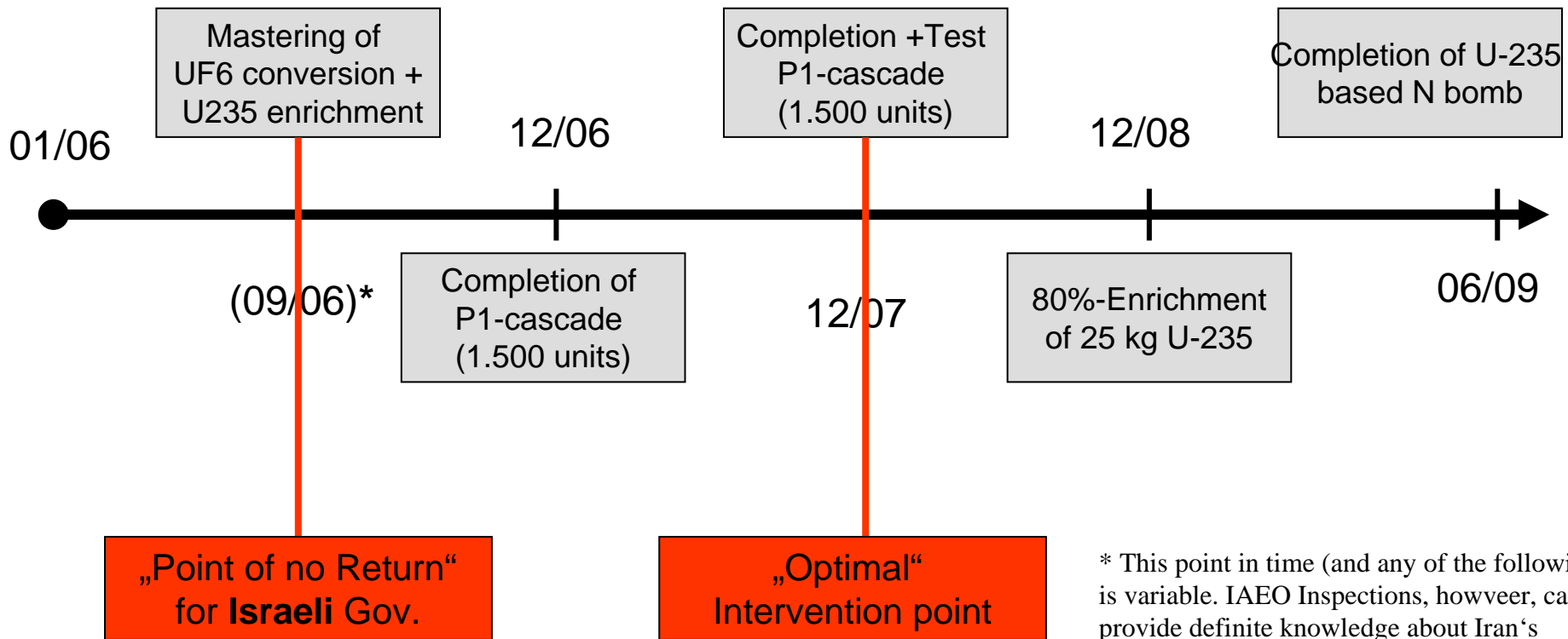


Russian Solution: Splitting up the fuel cycle

Russia



Worst Case Time frame for Iranian nuclear weapons capacity



* This point in time (and any of the following) is variable. IAEA Inspections, however, can provide definite knowledge about Iran's enrichment capacity.

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