

IRAN HIT WITH NUCLEAR DEMANDS

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters)

The United States and other major powers yesterday told Iran to prepare a “serious response” by Oct. 1 to demands it halt its nuclear program or risk the consequences.

The demand from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany came after U.S. President Barack Obama made his first speech to the UN General Assembly, urging leaders to stop blaming America and join him in confronting world issues including Iran’s nuclear plans.

The Iranian leader delivered his usual tough rhetoric on Israel, accusing it of “inhuman policies” in the Palestinian territories and of dominating world political and economic affairs.

“We expect a serious response from Iran and will decide, in the context of our dual track approach, as a result of the meeting, on our next steps,” British Foreign Minister David Miliband said, reading a statement agreed by Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

WANTED:
SERIOUS
RESPONSE

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in his own UN address, did not directly mention the nuclear issue.

But the Iranian leader delivered his usual tough rhetoric on Israel, accusing it of “inhuman policies” in the Palestinian territories and of dominating world political and economic affairs.

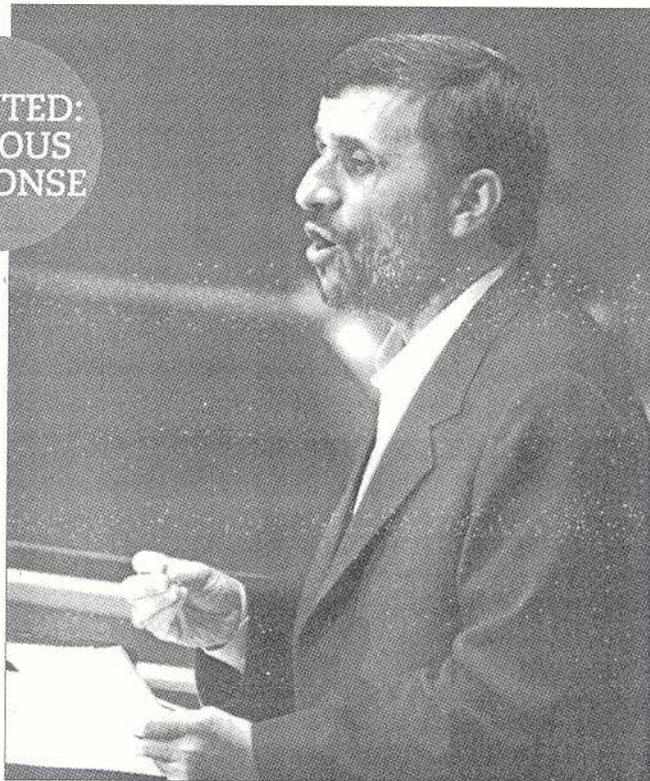
U.S. and British officials in the assembly hall left at the time of Ahmadinejad’s comments about Israel.

“It is disappointing that Mr. Ahmadinejad has once again chosen to espouse hateful, offensive and anti-Semitic rhetoric,” said U.S. mission spokesman Mark Kornblau.

Hours after protesters gathered outside Iran’s UN

mission to accuse him of stealing the June election, Ahmadinejad hailed the “glorious and fully democratic” poll which “entrusted me once more with a large majority.”

Obama, in his first speech to the assembly since taking office in January, pledged U.S. global engagement but said the United States could not shoulder the responsibility alone.



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Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York.