

## Iran Must Be the Next President's Number 1 Priority

Martin S. Indyk  
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Former U. S. Ambassador Martin Indyk told an audience of over 700 at UNF's University Center that with the clock ticking on Iran's nuclear program, the next President can not delay in addressing this country's relationship with Iran and the potential of a very volatile arms race in the Middle East within a year of the President taking office. Indyk said that Iran not Iraq must be our country's and the next President's first priority. Indyk admitted that in addressing Iran's nuclear capabilities and reversing its dominance in the region, the next President will have to use his leadership to reverse the decline in the United States' "soft power" - our brand name and influence throughout the world.

In Indyk's opinion the next President must use his leadership to re-assert a balance between diplomacy and force, between realism and ideology, and between peacemaking and democracy promotion. He must, according to Indyk, win the "war of ideas" and convince the Arab people that moderation, compromise and peaceful resolution of conflict is in their best interest and far superior to resistance and the use of violence and terrorism. He explained in some detail how everything that happens in the Middle East is interconnected, and observed that peace treaties between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Palestine would strike a strategic blow to Iran's efforts to spread its influence.

-Suzanne Judas