



THE TRIPOLI POST



This photo released by the Iranian army, shows launching of Shahin missile in armed forces war games, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010. Iran has successfully tested a newly developed air defense missile system during the country's biggest ever air defense drill. The Shahin missile is Tehran's response to Moscow's refusal to deliver the advanced Russian S-300 air defense system Western sponsored sanctions on the country.

NATO Leaders Do Not See Iran as Missile Threat

Iran seems to be winning in its diplomatic derive as diplomats said NATO summit in Lisbon would not mention Iran as a missile threat in the public document they adopt.

Turkey said it would refuse to sign up to a NATO document that names Iran as the threat in the final declaration.

In addition, an French officials at the presidential office in Paris told reporters that Iran will not figure as a missile threat in the public declaration.

"This will not figure in those words in the document that we are to adopt," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We will not put the origin of the emerging menace in black and white in the documents to be adopted."

The French official did not give a reason for omitting a mention of Iran from the NATO document, but Turkish President Abdullah Gul had said 10 days ago that identifying Iran "is

wrong and will not happen."

Even if Iran is left out of the final declaration, allies were still debating Thursday whether to

mention Iran in a list of countries identified in a confidential threat assessment, a NATO diplomat

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New French Defense Minister: Afghanistan is Trap for Us All

"Afghanistan is, I would say, a trap for all the parties involved there," Reuters quoted Juppe, a former prime minister who was appointed defense minister last Sunday, as saying.

He further added that France

desires to begin pulling its forces out of war-ravaged Afghanistan by 2011 and will discuss the possibility at an upcoming NATO summit in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.

However, the newly

appointed minister emphasized that France will not fully withdraw its forces until "Afghan authorities have the situation in hand."

Earlier in the day, Mark

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