

US threatens to destroy Iranian missiles shipped to Venezuela

US warns it'll destroy potential Iranian long-range missile shipment delivered to Maduro regime.

EXCLUSIVE: The United States is warning it will destroy potential Iranian long-range missile shipments delivered to the Maduro regime in Venezuela, a senior administration official tells Fox News.

"The transfer of long-range missiles from Iran to Venezuela is not acceptable to the United States and will not be tolerated or permitted," said Elliott Abrams, the State Department Special Representative for Iran and Venezuela.

"We will make every effort to stop shipments of long-range missiles, and if somehow they get to Venezuela they will be eliminated there," added a senior administration official.

TRUMP'S GERMAN AMBASSADOR TRIED TO SECRETLY NEGOTIATE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S EXIT

The officials provided no information that such shipments were imminent. They only claimed that Iran and Venezuela are a likely pair for arms deals.

"Iran has announced its intention to engage in arms sales, and Venezuela is an obvious target because those two pariah regimes already have a relationship," said Abrams. "Venezuela is paying in gold to buy gasoline from Iran, and there is an Iranian presence in the country. Venezuela's economy has collapsed, so every bar of gold for Iran is tens of thousands of dollars the Venezuelan people need for food and medicine."

Last week, a United Nations embargo on Iran buying and selling conventional weapons expired. The Trump administration unsuccessfully tried to convince the United Nations Security Council to extend the embargo.

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"Iran has shipped missiles to the Houthis, so we know they are ready, willing, and

able to ship them to Venezuela and other possible buyers,” said the administration official. “Every delivery of Iranian arms destabilizes South America and the Caribbean, and is especially dangerous to Venezuela’s neighbors in Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana.”

Rich Edson is a Washington correspondent for Fox News Channel. Prior to that, he served as Fox Business Network’s Washington correspondent.

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