



TENTH SEMI-ANNUAL MUNK DEBATE ANNOUNCED

CAN THE WORLD TOLERATE AN IRAN WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY?

**— Charles Krauthammer, Fared Zakaria, Vali Nasr and Amos Yadlin convene in
Toronto, Canada to debate the global response to Iran’s nuclear ambitions —**

October 15, 2012 – Toronto, Canada

With tensions between Iran, Israel and Western powers reaching new highs over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear enrichment program, the Munk Debates announced today the resolution and presenters for the tenth semi-annual event, to be held in Toronto on Monday, November 26th.

To encourage far-ranging discussion of an issue of global significance, the tenth semi-annual Munk Debate will table the motion: ***be it resolved the world cannot tolerate an Iran with nuclear weapons capability.***

It has been rightly characterized as the toughest foreign policy challenge in a generation: how should the world respond to Iran’s nuclear ambitions? For some, the case for a pre-emptive strike on Iran is ironclad. An Iranian bomb would flood the volatile Middle East with nuclear weapons and trap Israel in a state of perilous insecurity — along with much of the world’s oil supply. Others argue that a nuclear Iran could be the very stabilizing force that the region needs, as the threat of nuclear war makes conventional conflicts more risky. These same voices also ask: can the West and Israel afford to attack Iran when doing so could rollback the Arab Spring and re-entrench reactionary forces throughout the Middle East?

Arguing ***for the resolution*** will be **Amos Yadlin**, a former Israeli Air Force general, Israel Defense Forces head of Military Intelligence, and one of eight pilots to successfully bomb Iraq’s Osirak reactor. He will be joined by **Charles Krauthammer** who *The Financial Times* recently hailed as the most influential political commentator in America. Krauthammer is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his internationally syndicated column for *The Washington Post*.

Speaking **against the resolution** will be **Fareed Zakaria**, host of CNN's flagship global affairs program, *Fareed Zakaria GPS*, editor-at-large of *TIME* magazine, *Washington Post* columnist, and *New York Times* bestselling author. Zakaria will be joined by **Vali Nasr**, the Iranian born Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. and a member of the State Department's influential Policy Planning Board.

Rudyard Griffiths, director and moderator of the Munk Debates, comments: "This has to be our most significant debate to date. How the world and Canada decide to respond to Iran's nuclear ambitions in the coming months will determine the fate of everything from the Arab Spring to the global economic recovery. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to benefit from the insights of four big thinkers – with sharply contrasting points of view – on this all important geopolitical topic."

The Munk Debates provide a lively and substantive forum for leading thinkers to discuss the pressing issues of our time. Two debates are held each year in Toronto, one in the spring and one in the fall. Previous Munk Debate participants include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Henry Kissinger, Christopher Hitchens, Paul Krugman, Lawrence Summers, Dambisa Moyo, Lord Peter Mandelson, UN Special Envoy for HIV AIDS Stephen Lewis, and Mia Farrow.

The Munk Debates is a signature initiative of the Aurea Foundation, founded in 2006 by Peter and Melanie Munk to support Canadian institutions involved in the study and development of public policy.

"Our philanthropy is aimed primarily at improving the quality and vitality of public debate in Canada," said **Peter Munk**, speaking about the rationale for the Munk Debates. "Whether it is the support we provide to the Munk School at the University of Toronto or the creation of the Munk Debates through our Aurea Foundation, Melanie and I are committed to broadening public knowledge, education and informed discourse," Mr. Munk added.

The Munk Debates are open to the public. The debate on Iran's Nuclear Ambitions will take place in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall on **Monday, November 26th** at 7:00 pm EST. **Tickets go on sale to Munk Debate Premium Members at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, October 23rd. Remaining tickets will go on sale to the public at 12:00 NOON on Thursday, October 25th.** For information on purchasing tickets, or premium membership, please visit www.munkdebates.com. Seating is limited.

The debate will also be broadcast live over the Internet for global viewing audiences. For more information on the livestream of the Munk Debate on Iran's Nuclear Ambitions, visit www.munkdebates.com

Media inquiries should be directed to:
Sherry Naylor
sherry@munkdebates.com
(416) 368-8253