

**THE NEW IRAQ / IRAN REALITY**

Way back when, in the days when the Baker Commission was about to release the much anticipated 'Iraq Surrender Plan', I wrote an article touting an essential truth of this whole war on terror: Iraq is Iran! To understand our worldwide conflict with terrorism, we must understand that it is all related. This is a war against the forces of Islamo-Fascism; - Against those who take the Koran's instruction to "slay the unbeliever" very seriously indeed; - Against those that believe that Allah will soon call them to conquer the entire world and slaughter in his name; - Against those that take the Koran and Jihad so seriously that they are ready right NOW to wage that War of Civilizations, - sacrificing themselves...and their children in the process.

This is a war that stretches across the globe; From the Philippines and Indonesia to the Sudan to India to the Middle East, - and has visited our own shores. It is with an enemy that wants to destroy Israel and the Jewish race and to humble, subjugate and annihilate The Great Satan, America. It has recently set its sights on the re-conquering of Portugal. It demands special religious rights in this country and grants no tolerance in its own domains such as Saudi Arabia where practicing or conversion to Christianity is a criminal offence. And make no mistake: As demonstrated by the bloody slaughter in Iraq, - and its willingness to shove young boys armed only with stones into the front lines when attacking Israeli soldiers, - or to strap bombs on children as young as 8-months old to be served up to Allah as suicide weapons; - it will not hesitate to offer up its own in exchange for that *most valuable commodity*, - good PR.

Thus in recent weeks we have seen a new turn in the war in Iraq. To a great degree, Iraq has always been about Iran. Now, even Tehran itself seems to be acknowledging that fact. They believe they have the pieces in place. The Iranian regime is now openly challenging not only America and the West but the entire world. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Iran announced that it began operating 3,000 centrifuges in its uranium enrichment program. A few days later, Tehran revealed that it was beginning the process of building 2 more nuclear plants. This was open defiance of UN resolutions.<sup>1 2</sup> What is more significant, is that the Iranian Vice President warned that they were getting ready to active 50,000 centrifuges, thereby speeding up the process of uranium enrichment and bomb making exponentially. If the world didn't like that, Iran would be willing to drop out of the Non-Proliferation treaty and kick out the UN inspectors. Now, that would ratchet up the crisis a notch or two.<sup>3</sup> Saudi Arabia and Turkey are both kicking into high gear with plans to begin nuclear programs of their own.<sup>4</sup>

But that's not all. Iran's proxies in Iraq have now jumped in too. Iranian sponsored Shiite cleric and terror-militia strongman, Muqtada al-Sadr, - returned recently from his reported Iranian self-exile, - and called for Shiites and Sunnis to stop fighting each other and take on the job of throwing out the Americans. The initial call brought hundreds of thousands of Shiite Iraqis to the streets to protest the US presence.<sup>5</sup> Another more politically oriented but still Iranian controlled radical cleric, al-Sistani, has also come out publicly against US policies in Iraq. He too is working toward a Sunni-Shiite rapprochement. Should they unite against the Americans, such an arrangement could spell added trouble for US forces in the country.<sup>6</sup> Yet, Iranian attempts to unite Sunni & Shiite into a common front against the Americans have not met with general success as evidenced by a spate of bombings and slaughter that continued and actually escalated since al-Sadr's call. Two major bridges as well as the Parliament building, symbol of the American backed attempt of a unity government, were bombed. Al-Sadr's call for public protests was followed a few days later with an order for all of his supporters in Parliament to pull out of al-Maliki's Iraqi government. 'Big Mook' had been instrumental in Maliki's gaining office in the first place. It seems, Muqtatda is angry that the 'surge' is going forward and starting to take into custody members of his Mahdi Army.<sup>7</sup> But all of that may be just a show to please the Americans who are putting pressure on the government to take some action against the Shiites. After all, like all good politicians, Maliki would like to remain in office, - and both are Shiites, not opposed to Iranian influence.<sup>8</sup>

Still, Iranian efforts continue to destabilize the situation in Iraq, with the long-term goal of driving out the Americans and claiming control of Iraqi oil through their Shiite proxies. This last week the US military reported that interrogations of recently captured fighters revealed that many had been trained in Iran, - both in the use of armor-piercing roadside bombs (EFPs) and conducting assaults with rocket-propelled grenades.<sup>9</sup> Over 40 US soldiers have been killed by EFPs in just the first 9 days of April. While the US has been outfitting vehicles with devices that disarm such weapons, al-Qaeda has countered with a “mysterious device” that renders them ineffective.<sup>10</sup> After interviewing terrorist fighters in Iraq, Britain’s Independent confirmed that thousands of insurgents had received training in Iran at the Jalil Azad base, outside of Tehran.<sup>11</sup>

On the economic front, Iran has announced that it will end all oil sales in dollars, switching instead to Euros.<sup>12</sup> The position of the dollar as the world’s default currency has been largely supported in recent years by the fact that it served as the only real currency that could be used to purchase petroleum on the world market. The growing strength of the Euro and the decision of some countries, such as China, - to reduce holdings in dollars, - threatens the stability and value of the dollar and ultimately the entire US economy.

You see, despite however much we may try to deny it, this entire war we are conducting in the Middle East is a part of one giant conflict. Many have written that these are but the opening rounds of World War III. I believe that is probably so. Iran has set its sights not only on Iraq, not only on Israel, not only on America, but on the entire world. Their motivation is both national and religious. Under the leadership of President Ahmadinejad, they believe they are to be the vanguard of Islamic conquest that will set up a world-wide government under the Mahdi supported by a “Jesus” or Issa, that denies that he is the Son of God and leads the slaughter of the Jews. Their training and funneling of insurgents to Iraq, - their sponsorship of Hezbollah, Hamas and global terror, - and their pursuit of nuclear weapons; - are all part of that same picture. So is their cozying up to Moscow, - the Magog of Ezekiel 38. The Bible tells us that they will join the Russians in leading a giant coalition of Muslim nations in a Last Days invasion of Israel. That alliance is right now being formed before our very eyes.

And because to the Iranians and their co-religionists, this is at its heart a religious war: There is no deal that can be made with them: No compromise that will satisfy them. The Koran spells it out. There is no peace to be made with infidels. That’s us. The only acceptable arrangement is the surrender of the unbelieving West. The Mahdi is coming, says Iran’s state radio. And if you believe them, he could be coming as early as this year. Their President Ahmadinejad has announced that he and the Iranian state, are personally committed to creating the conditions for the rise of that Islamic Messiah.<sup>13</sup> According to Islam, - that necessary condition is chaos! To sponsor chaos in neighboring Iraq, - where the forces of the Great Satan lie, - is but a religious duty of the truly faithful Muslim. The percentage of Muslims that is routinely committed to violent Jihad has been grossly underestimated in the West. According to Walid Shoebat, former Palestinian terrorist, - the radical Islamists make up a significant majority.<sup>14</sup>

Iran is preparing too to fulfill another Islamic imperative by being the nation that accomplishes the destruction of *The Little Satan*, Israel. First there is the drive to acquire nuclear weapons capability. Second they’ve publicly stated a willingness to sustain massive casualties for that cause due to the inevitable Israeli retaliation. Third, they’ve set up an alliance with the Syrians that involves the exchange of military capabilities and advisors. Finally, Tehran is working with Hezbollah to prepare them for the next round of hostilities with Israel. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 500 Hezbollah fighters graduated from anti-aircraft training school at an Iranian airbase in Tehran. The three-tiered missile system which thanks to Tehran, Hezbollah will now possess, will severely restrict Israeli operations in any future conflict.<sup>15</sup>

So our war in Iraq - is Israel’s war - is our war against Iran and al-Qaeda and global terror and the Islamo-Fascists that would destroy us if they could, - and will destroy us if we let them. Just ask Israel. There is no peace to be had on any other terms but abject surrender. The choice is ours. Either we fight them there....or we fight them here. Either we take this threat seriously....or they will surely take us!

## **RUMORS OF PEACE - CLOUDS OF WAR**

On Monday last, Israel announced that it was ready to engage in peace talks based on the Saudi Peace Plan recently revived by the Arab League. In its essence, the Saudi Plan is a 'land for peace' deal that would have Israel return to the pre-1967 borders in exchange for recognition of Israel's right to exist. Under pressure from the Bush Administration, PM Olmert signaled that he was ready to engage on that basis. Right now it seems talks would begin with countries that already have treaty arrangements with Israel such as Egypt and Jordan. Israel would like to see a broader range of Arab participation from such countries like Saudi Arabia itself. President Mubarak warned however that a general peace with the Arab states would only follow the conclusion of a peace deal.<sup>16</sup> The Saudis were clear about the initiative from their perspective. Israel must accept the gist of the entire Arab plan before negotiations can even begin.<sup>17</sup> I guess the rest is just details. And in the time honored tradition of the man that Churchill described as a "sheep in sheep's clothing", - Neville Chamberlain, - Olmert seems ready to take the plunge.

The significance of these negotiations, - should they come off, - should not be underestimated. An Israeli / Palestinian peace deal could be an important step toward the treaty written of in Daniel 9:27 when the prophet tells us that the Antichrist himself will "**confirm the covenant with many**" for seven years. However significant hurdles remain. While Olmert has let it be known that Israel is ready to withdraw from the Biblical lands of Judea and Samaria and sanction the establishment of a Palestinian State, - the Arab proposal calls for the right of Palestinian refugees to flood Israel itself. The PM has consistently said that such an arrangement would be a non-starter.

But peace isn't all that's on the table. After saying that Syria was interested in "reviving the peace process" with US and Russian help, - Syria's Minister of Information warned of a violent seizing of the Golan Heights, if Israel does not accede to Damascus' demands.<sup>18</sup> Encouraged by the relative success that Hezbollah showed against the IDF last summer, Syria, - aided by Russian technical improvements, - is in the midst of "an unprecedented military buildup". Damascus has deployed over 300 Scud missiles capable of carrying chemical or biological weapons, just across the Israeli border. It has improved its air defense systems with the purchase of Russian Stretlets anti-missiles. These, along with the adoption of some of the Hezbollah tactics used in southern Lebanon, could make Syria a much more formidable foe than previously thought.<sup>19</sup> Russia is taking the threat of war between Damascus and Tel Aviv so seriously, that they are warning Israel off of any such conflict. Russia has also admitted to supplying both Iran and Syria with updated modern missile systems.<sup>20</sup>

Israeli intelligence believes that Hezbollah, Syria and Iran are all preparing for a war with Israel which they feel could break out by the summer. Hezbollah has already made good on all of the losses it suffered in last summer's fighting with the IDF.<sup>21</sup> Fatah and Hamas are joining in the preparations, gathering antitank weapons and upgraded missiles. One Israeli general warns that the Palestinians may be preparing to launch a surprise attack, - again by this summer.<sup>22</sup> It remains to be determined: Are we on the threshold of war, - or some false peace. Remember, Islam has a concept called a *hudna*, in which Muslim's are allowed to make a false peace with an enemy, - while they regroup and get stronger, - and then violate it when they have the advantage. It's permissible so long as it advances Islam. (*I guess there's a few perks to being the religion of peace!*) In Daniel 9 it tells us how the Antichrist will confirm a peace treaty with Israel and then violate it in three and one-half years. That will be the ultimate *hudna*.

## **YET AGAIN**

After the Holocaust of the 1940's the unofficial slogan among Jews and their supporters has been: "Never Again!". But on the very continent that served up that virulent anti-Semitism, the shame has not died. Once again we are seeing vicious, open attacks against Jews; - And not only there, but across much of the world. A study by Tel Aviv University reveals that violent attacks against Jews doubled worldwide in 2006. Europe was the worst, recording well over 300 incidents. The evidence of anti-Semitism was up in France, Belgium and the UK. In Germany, cemetery and Holocaust monument desecration was all the rage.<sup>23</sup>

Fueled by the large, angry and growing North African Islamic community, the violence in France over the last couple of years has been especially bad. Arutz Sheva recently catalogued a horrendous list of attacks that occurred over a short period a little over a year ago. It is but a sampling of the violence that is coming once again to characterize the continental attitude toward the Jews in their midst. At that time a Jewish sports club in Toulouse was firebombed, - a football team beaten with sticks in Bondy. A car rammed a synagogue in Lyon and was then set on fire. Molotov cocktails were hurled at a school in Creteil, as well as synagogues in Marseilles and Strasbourg.<sup>24</sup> So as the world recites empty platitudes, Ahmadinejad of Iran leads a growing number of ‘Holocaust deniers’ and diplomats look the other way as Palestinians attach bombs to themselves and their children as they try to drive the Israeli’s into the sea. So we see the beginning of ‘*Yet Again*’. God says of Israel, His chosen people: **“Therefore behold, the days are coming’, says the Lord...’For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. Behold I will send for many fisherman’, says the Lord, ‘and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters and they shall hunt them”**. (Jeremiah 16:14, 16) They are started to be hunted back even now!

### **LINING UP WITH EZEKIEL**

Ever since World War I, Turkey has been trying to pass itself off as part of the West. Already part of NATO, the Turks were seeking to become a member of the European Union. But that Western orientation is fast changing. Having been rebuffed somewhat by the EU, Turkey is now on the verge of electing a dedicated Islamist in the upcoming presidential election in May. PM Erdogan, who may have the inside track in the race for the presidency, is raising fears among secular Turks that his party, the ADP, may use its anticipated rise to power to turn the country into a religious state.<sup>25</sup> Already, the last several years has seen the Turkish government moving out of the Western political orbit, with an increased understanding with both Iran and the Russians.

Now the Turks have gone one farther, sending troops across the border into northern Iraq, - against the wishes of the US, - to strike at camps of the Iraqi Kurds. They may have as many as 200,000 troops positioned along the border ready to go in should circumstances require.<sup>26</sup> There is some speculation that Turkey may be acting in concert or with the blessing of Iran.<sup>27</sup> Another interest could be the oil fields of northern Iraq. Whatever the cause, a new alignment would seem to line up with Ezekiel’s prophecy of the Gog / Magog invasion of Israel in the Last Days. Ezekiel 38 mentions at least 3 peoples that come from modern-day Turkey, - all part of that alliance that will invade Israel at that time; - Meshech, Tubal & Togarmah. In addition, many scholars believe that Gomer refers to present day Armenia, which is also in Turkey.<sup>28</sup> So we just may be witnessing the Turkey’s big switch. Prophetic, historic times indeed!

### **A NARROW...BUT WELCOME VICTORY**

By a narrow 5 to 4 vote, the Supreme Court upheld the national ban against partial birth abortion, ending a horrific practice that former Surgeon General C Everett Koop testified was a procedure unnecessary, even to save the life of the mother. In fact in practice, it had often been used as a last trimester convenience form of birth control. The procedure involves removing a live child from the mother’s uterus before “crushing or cutting its skull to complete the abortion”. While liberal abortion supporters screamed that the ruling violated the woman’s constitutional right to an abortion, (I seem to vaguely remember Madison writing eloquently about that in the Federalist Papers...there I go hallucinating again), - they were somewhat comforted by an alternate form of abortion they had devised. In that method they are able to dismember the baby right in the uterus.<sup>29</sup> How comforting that must be for them. Psalm 133:13-14 reads however **“For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”**. It seems God knows when life begins!

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  - <sup>2</sup> Iran Plans To Build 2 Nuke Plants, Yahoo News, April 15, 2007
  - <sup>3</sup> Reported on The Glen Beck Show, CNN, April 9, 2007
  - <sup>4</sup> Eye on Iran, Rivals Pursuing Nuclear Power, New York Times, April 15, 2007
  - <sup>5</sup> Pepe Escobar, The Baghdad Gulag, Asia Times, April 14, 2007
  - <sup>6</sup> The new power in Iraq, The Guardian, April 9, 2007
  - <sup>7</sup> Qassim Abdul-Zahra, Iraq: Radical Cleric Al-Sadr Orders Cabinet Ministers to Quit Government, AP, April 16, 2007
  - <sup>8</sup> Sami Moubayed, Muqtada and Maliki as united as ever, Asia Times, April 18, 2007
  - <sup>9</sup> Qassim Abdul-Zahra, US military: Iran training Iraqi insurgents..., AP, April 12, 2007
  - <sup>10</sup> US Secretary of Defense to Visit Israel, Lakarev Report, April 12, 2007
  - <sup>11</sup> Phil Sands, Iran trains 'thousands'..., UK Independent, April 16, 2007
  - <sup>12</sup> Jerome R Corsi, Iran leads attack against US dollar, World Net Daily, April 11, 2007
  - <sup>13</sup> Joel C Rosenberg, Not if, But When, Citizen Link, April 2007
  - <sup>14</sup> Based on statements by Walid Shoebat, in a series of interviews with John Hagee, aired in 2006
  - <sup>15</sup> Tehran arms Lebanese militia..., DEBKAFfile, April 17, 2007
  - <sup>16</sup> Olmert says ready for talks based on Saudi plan, Reuters, April 16, 2007
  - <sup>17</sup> Saudi source: No talks before Israel accepts Arab peace plan, Haaretz, April 4, 2007
  - <sup>18</sup> Syria threatens violence over Arab plan, Jerusalem Post, April 16, 2007
  - <sup>19</sup> Yaakov, Katz, Analysis: Don't underestimate Syria's military, Jerusalem Post, April 12, 2007
  - <sup>20</sup> Russia warns Israel against Syrian war, Press TV, April 16, 2007
  - <sup>21</sup> Hizbullah Gearing Up..., Christian Science Monitor, April 6, 2007
  - <sup>22</sup> Hillel Fendel, Israel Threatened in North, South, Israel National News, April 11, 2007
  - <sup>23</sup> Attacks against Jews double in 2006 report reveals, YNET News, April 15, 2007
  - <sup>24</sup> French Riots Fuel Anti-Semitism, Arutz Sheva, republished April 17, 2007
  - <sup>25</sup> R Krespin, Tensions Rise in Turkey..., MEMRI, April 6, 2007
  - <sup>26</sup> Turkish Commandos Cross Into Iraq..., Assyrian International News Agency, April 11, 2007
  - <sup>27</sup> David Bay, Cutting Edge Ministries, April 2007
  - <sup>28</sup> John MacArthur, MacArthur Study Bible, notes for Ezekiel 38:2 & 38:6
  - <sup>29</sup> Supreme Court Upholds Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, FOX News, AP, April 18, 2007