



PROPHETIC TIMES

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IRAN USES HAMAS, HIZBULLAH IN IRAQ

July 22, 2004 The Middle East Newslite reported: Alran has been using Hamas and Hizbullah as part of plans to impose Teheran's authority in Iraq.

A report by the New York-based Hudson Institute said Iran has been sponsoring and cooperating with a range of Shi'ite insurgency groups in an effort to develop a power base in Iraq. The Shi'ites have been employed to work against U.S. interests and intimidate independent figures within the majority Shi'ite community in Iraq.

"Following the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, the Iranian clerical dictatorship has mounted a covert effort to establish an allied Shi'a Islamist extremist regime in Iraq," the report, by senior fellow Constantine Menges, said. "Iran has been preparing to do this for many years and has recruited political, military, and covert agent assets among the hundreds of thousands of Shi'a Iraqis who fled Iraq and have lived in Iran for years."

The report said Iran has tried to dominate Iraq in several ways. Menges cited Iran's use of Iraqi Shi'ite clerics, the establishment of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the cooperation with Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Sadr and the use of Hizbullah and Hamas for insurgency attacks on Iraq.≡

GCC AND MUSLIM STATES URGED TO FORM ALLIANCE

July 21, 2004 The Middle East Newslite reported: AThe Gulf Cooperation Council has been urged to establish a security alliance with Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. The Manama-based Bahrain Center for Studies and Research recommended that GCC countries form an alliance with such members of the Commonwealth of Independent States as Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The center said such an alliance was required in wake of the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"The recommendation is that countries in the Gulf and South Caucasus form a joint economic body, which will help the collective security of these two strategic areas," the study, termed "Security of South Caucasus and the Gulf," said. "The South Caucasus is very important because it has a lot of natural resources such as gas and oil, which are second only to the Arabian Gulf."

The report was submitted to an international conference recently held in Iran on Central Asia and the Caucasus. Authored by Yousif Albinkhalil, the study said the oil reserves of both regions account for 68 percent of proven global reserves.≡

SHARON URGES JEWS TO LEAVE FRANCE FOR ISRAEL

July 19, 2004 The International Herald Tribune reported: AThe Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, urged French Jews on Sunday to flee the country (of Israel) to escape a rising tide of anti-Semitism, while acknowledging that the French government was fighting racial violence.

The latest French Interior Ministry figures show 510 anti-Jewish acts or threats in the first six months of 2004 X compared with 593 for all of last year.

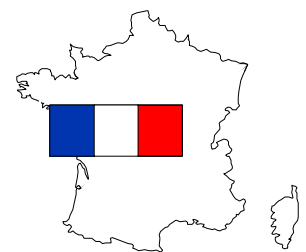
>>If I have to advocate to our brothers in France, I will tell them one thing,== Sharon told visiting American Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. >>Move to Israel, as early as possible.==

.In Paris, the French Foreign Ministry was clearly offended by Sharon=s appeal. .>>We have immediately made contact with Israeli authorities to ask them for explanations about these unacceptable statements,== a ministry spokesman, Hervé Ladsous, said.

Anti-Semitic acts against Jewish schools, synagogues and cemeteries have risen in France in recent years, coinciding with the growth of tension in the Middle East. Young Muslims have been blamed for many attacks.

>>We see the spread of the wildest anti-Semitism there,== Sharon said. He said that in France, about 10 percent of the people are Muslims: >>That gets a different kind of anti-Semitism, based on anti-Israeli feelings and propaganda.== .He added, >>I must say that the French government are taking steps against that.==

French Jewish leaders interviewed on France-2 Television said Sharon=s remarks had been unhelpful. >>These comments do not bring calm, peace and serenity that we all need,== said Patrick Gaubert, president of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, known by the acronym LICRA. .>>I think Mr. Sharon would have done better tonight to have kept quiet.==



Théo Klein, honorary president of the Representative Council of the Jewish Institutions of France, or CRIF, an umbrella group representing major French Jewish organizations, said Sharon should let the French Jewish community take care of its own problems. .>>It=s not up to him to decide for us,= Klein told television reporters.

SCHRÖDER WANTS CONSTITUTION RATIFICATION IN 2004

July 16, 2004 The Euobserver reported: AThe German Chancellor has indicated that his country will seek to ratify the EU Constitution by the end of this year. In an interview with the Financial Times, Gerhard Schröder said "The German constitution does not allow for a referendum. We will have a parliamentary process". AWe want to ensure this happens before the end of the year", said the Chancellor.

If the German parliament does approve the Constitution before the end of this year, Germany could be the first of the 25 member states to adopt the treaty. Having the largest country and founding member of the EU adopt the document would send an important signal to other countries - all of which have to ratify the Constitution before it can come into force.

Mr Schröder's announcement comes just a day after France decided that it will put the Constitution to a referendum - probably in the second half of 2005. At least nine other countries are also planning a referendum. Among them is the UK which many fear could reject the treaty - something which would throw the EU into political turmoil.

Mr Schröder's insistence that it will be done via the parliament comes as the Greens (who are in a governing coalition with the Social Democrats), the Liberal and the Communist parties are upping the pressure to ask the citizens.

The EU has two years from 29 October - the date the treaty will be signed - for the treaty to be ratified in the member states.≡

CHINESE PRODUCE NEW TYPE OF SUB

July 16, 2004 The Washington Times reported: AChina's naval buildup has produced a new type of attack submarine that U.S. intelligence did not know was under construction, according to U.S. defense and intelligence officials. The submarine was spotted several weeks ago for the first time and has been designated by the Pentagon as the first Yuan-class of submarine.

One official said the new submarine was a "technical surprise" to U.S. intelligence, which was unaware that Beijing was building a new non-nuclear powered attack submarine. U.S. intelligence agencies have few details about the new submarine but believe it is diesel-powered rather than nuclear-powered, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The new boat, which appears to be a combination of indigenous Chinese hardware and Russian weapons, suggests that China is building up its submarine forces in preparation for a conflict over Taiwan, defense analysts say.

"China has decided submarines are its first-line warships now, their best shot at beating carriers," said Sid Trevethan, an Alaska-based specialist on the Chinese military. "And China is right."

"One has to marvel at the enormity of the investment by the People's Liberation Army in submarines," said Richard Fisher, a specialist on the Chinese military. China also is building two nuclear-powered submarines X one Type 093, believed to be based on the Russian Victor-III class and armed with intercontinental ballistic missiles, and a Type 094 attack submarine, which the Pentagon believes has a finished hull and will be ready for deployment next year.

According to Mr. Trevethan, China currently has a force of 57 deployed submarines, including one Xia-class nuclear ballistic missile submarine, five Han submarines, four Kilos, seven Songs, 18 Mings and 22 Soviet-designed Romeos. Beijing also has eight more Kilos on order with Russia.

Disclosure of the new submarine comes as the United States is trying to sell eight diesel submarines to Taiwan, which Beijing views as a breakaway province. Taiwan currently has just two World War II-era Guppy-class submarines and two 1980s Dutch submarines. Mr. Fisher, an analyst with the International Assessment and Strategy Center, said that despite the imbalance of power on the Taiwan Strait in favor of Beijing, the Bush administration has been slow to sell the submarines it offered Taiwan in April 2001.

Mr. Fisher said the Chinese submarine buildup should prompt the Pentagon to step up U.S. anti-submarine warfare capabilities, which he said are "at an historic low" because of cutbacks in specialized ships and aircraft. The Navy should consider building its own diesel attack submarine to be able to "effectively duke it out with the new tidal wave of Chinese subs, that if left unchecked, may soon dominate the Asian littoral regions," Mr. Fisher said.

The Pentagon is also building up U.S. naval forces in the Pacific, with the addition of up to six attack submarines in Guam and the possible deployment of an aircraft carrier battle group to Hawaii in the coming months.≡

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