

USADI Dispatch

A publication of the U.S. Alliance for Democratic Iran

Volume 1, No. 30

Thursday, May 27, 2004

USADI Commentary

Iran Mullahs to Dispatch "Battalions of Suicide Bombers" to Iraq

For the fourth time in little over a week, several hundred "students" demonstrated outside the British embassy in Tehran last Sunday in a government-sanctioned protest against "the actions of U.S.-led forces in Iraq." The students, who belonged to the paramilitary force, the Bassij, also condemned "damage to a Shiite Muslim shrine in Iraq."

Iran's ruling regime has used the cloak of religion to legitimize its tyranny and advance its political and diplomatic goals. In 1990's, it was behind a bomb explosion inside the most revered Shiite Shrine in Iran, that of Imam Reza, in city of Mashad. The explosion, which killed and wounded dozens, was promptly blamed on the Mujahedeen opposition group. Several years later, government officials finally admitted that Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MIOS) had planted the bomb and had the blessing of the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to do so. The mullahs' track record proves they have no heartfelt affinity for the sacred holy shrines.

That was not all. A government-sponsored website in Iran quoted a member of a state-run paramilitary student organization as saying that: "Tens of students from the University of Science and Technology in Iran will be sent to Karbala on Thursday, May 27, as the advance party of the *Karbala-bound Battalion* to join the defenders of the holy shrines in the city and to fight the occupiers of Islamic lands."

The website, *Rouyhad*, added that state-organized groups such as Hizbollah and Bassij "have begun forming battalions of suicide bombers against Coalition forces in Iraq." It also quoted an official of the Guards Corps, Hassan Abbassi, as saying, "Our main weapon is jihad... and through it, we are shaking the foundations of the infidels."

He added, "Reconnaissance has been done on 29 weak points in America and the West to prepare attacks on them. Our plans aim at 6,000 nuclear warheads in America, so that they would blow up. By doing reconnaissance on their weaknesses, we will pass on the information to guerrilla groups and take action through them."

Meanwhile, Ali Akbar Mohtashamipour, the terror master, who directed the Hizbollah in Lebanon in the 1980s and is believed to have coordinated the 1983 bombing of the US Marine barrack in Beirut, told the Arab satellite television network, Aljazeera, that armed attacks against occupation in Iraq is an Islamic resistance. Now a top advisor to President Khatami, Mohtashamipour was speaking in the ceremony marking the "Fourth anniversary of Liberation of Southern Lebanon," where he demanded the opening of all Iraqi borders to the *Enteharyoun* (suicide bombers).

These shocking statements from various corners of Iran's political landscape render hollow assertions made by Tehran's friends in the some EU capitals that the mullahs' are interested in a stable and secure Iraq. Blinded by billions of dollars worth of trade, these self-interested Europeans have been misreading the mullahs in the past quarter century.

The sooner we acknowledge that Tehran has launched a multi-faceted, long-term campaign in Iraq, the better we can neutralize it. It is a mistake to downplay Tehran's mischief in Iraq and rely on its "good will". This policy must be corrected before "battalions of suicide bombers" from Iran strike.

New Iran Parliament Opens with Anti-U.S. Chants

TEHRAN - To chants of "Death to America" and "Death to the occupiers of Iraq" Islamic conservatives took up their majority in Iran's parliament on Thursday.

One new deputy, former Revolutionary Guards member Mehdi Kouchakzadeh, led his colleagues in a chorus of anti-U.S. slogans which he said would "attract attention to the main task of the parliament."

"Death to America" and "Death to the occupiers of Iraq," dozens of new parliamentarians chanted.

The installation of a new conservative-dominated parliament spells the virtual end of a seven-year experiment with reforms led by Khatami.

At the heart of the new conservative majority in the 290-seat parliament is a coalition led by the Islamic Iran Developers Party, Abadgeran, which boasts many former members of Iran's security services and university-educated technocrats.

Thursday's solemn inauguration ceremony descended into uproar when Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi-Lari criticized the mass disqualification of would-be candidates by an unelected hardline watchdog.

Political analysts expect conservatives to complete their conquest of elected positions, which started with a strong showing in local council elections last year, by taking the presidency in elections in mid-2005.

Reuters, May 27, 2004

The US Alliance for Democratic Iran (USADI), is an independent, non-profit organization, which aims to advance a US policy on Iran that will benefit America's interests, through supporting Iranian people's aspirations for a democratic, secular, and peaceful government, free of tyranny, fundamentalism, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism. The USADI is not affiliated with any government agencies, political groups or parties.

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The New York Post
May 25, 2004
Tehran's Tentacles Of Terror

AS the U.S. is distracted between preparing to hand over Iraqi sovereignty, the Abu Ghraib scandal and the ongoing fighting, Iran's mullahs carefully keep their eye on the ball - pursuing a nuclear-weapons capability, flooding Iraq with money and agents, infiltrating Afghanistan, supporting terrorism against Turkey and (with Syria) directing the Palestinian intifada.

The U.S. government seems to have focused mainly on the nuclear issues - though we've semi-officially noticed, if not countered, the meddling in Iraq.

But Washington seems blind to the strategic challenge: Iran, in close coordination with its ally Syria and its proxy Hezbollah, is making a play at becoming the dominant power in the Middle East, with repercussions throughout the world.

For Iran, Iraq's fate is a winner-take-all contest. American success building a stable, free Iraq would leave Iran hemmed in by American-allied Afghanistan, Turkey and Iraq. But it would also be fatal ideologically to the oppressive Iranian theocracy.

Alternately, if Iranian terror can drive America out of Iraq, Iran will be well positioned to fill the resulting power vacuum.

While Iranian-backed cleric Muqtada al-Sadr dominates today's headlines, he is by no means Iran's only, or even most important, proxy in Iraq. Iran is reportedly infiltrating thousands of operatives into Iraq. Hezbollah, which is closely linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, and which Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage called the "A-Team of terrorists," is establishing a presence in Iraq. And Iran's TV and radio broadcasts to Iraq have dwarfed U.S. efforts at public diplomacy.

Sadr's rebellion may only be a test of U.S. reactions - with the real terror push to expel America...

Meanwhile, Iran keeps on seeking nuclear weapons as insurance against any American reaction. If the mullahs get the bomb, U.S. punitive strikes against the Iranian regime become very risky. U.S. forces in Iraq and the Persian Gulf would be hostage to nuclear terror while Iran masterminded a campaign of bombing, assassination and kidnapping against Americans and their Iraqi allies. Iran's missiles could target Israel, Turkey and Europe. Hezbollah could threaten nuclear terror anywhere.

If Iran can successfully undermine the American endeavor in Iraq while destabilizing U.S. allies in the region, the blow to both America's position in the Middle East and its prestige worldwide would be incalculable. Iran would be free to export radical Islam, terrorism and WMD technology worldwide.

In this worst-case but all-too-conceivable scenario, a nuclear Iran could emerge as a radical Islamic superpower, locked in a global struggle with the United States, making the long war on terror much longer and much more dangerous.

Excerpts from an article by Aaron Mannes, the author of the TerrorBlog (profilesinterror.com).

Washington Times (Editorial)
May 27, 2004

Iran, terrorists and nukes

"If Iran goes nuclear, you worry that Hezbollah goes nuclear." So said Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute in a New York Times article and an interview yesterday with The Washington Times. Mr. Leventhal points to an often-overlooked danger that Iranian possession of nuclear weapons would pose: that the regime could pass along nuclear weapons to Hezbollah or other terrorist organizations that it supports.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that Hezbollah could try to smuggle a crude nuclear device into the hold of a ship or a truck and deliver it to a highly populated Israeli city...

This is, to be sure, very much a worst-case scenario. But, given the nature of the Iranian government — a regime striving to obtain nuclear weapons that has supported terrorism from its inception a quarter-century ago — it would be folly to simply dismiss the possibility that it might decide to transfer nuclear weapons to one of its terrorist allies. (After all, how many people on Sept. 10, 2001, would have seriously entertained a conversation about hijacked planes destroying the Twin Towers?)

When you have a nation that actively supports terrorism and seeks nuclear weapons, "you cannot rule out the possibility" that it could collaborate with terrorists "to carry out nuclear violence," Mr. Leventhal says of Iran.

Despite Iran's protests to the contrary, all signs suggest that Iran's nuclear program is anything but peaceful. Last month, Iranian exile Alizera Jafarzadeh (who in August 2002 disclosed that Iran had a covert uranium enrichment facility at Natanz and a heavy water plant at Arak) told Reuters that Iranian Revolutionary Guards are overseeing 400 nuclear experts to prevent further leaks of sensitive information about the country's nuclear facilities.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will meet next month in Vienna to discuss the Iranian nuclear program. All indications are that the United States will reluctantly agree to postpone action against Iran — effectively leaving the issue to the European Union for now. Given the Europeans' dismal track record to date, this hardly seems promising.