

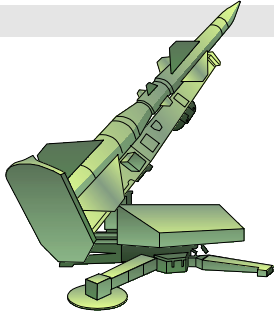


PROPHETIC TIMES

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RETHINKING THE UNTHINKABLE, AMID IRAQ FEARS

August 20, 2002 Ha'aretz reports: "Beset by a proverbial 10 plagues of military, economic and social woes, Israel is feverishly preparing for the specter of the real thing: an ancient, extinct disease that could be reincarnated by scientists and delivered by the cutting-edge of Saddam Hussein's arsenal.



And if the specter of a smallpox attack were not enough, Israelis awoke Wednesday to a new mega-worry: the knowledge that the Atomic, Biological and Chemical warfare gas mask kits that every Israeli has kept squirreled away in back cupboards since Saddam rained Scud missiles on the Jewish state in the 1991 Gulf war is lacking what may be a crucial defense against the effects of nuclear fallout.

For six weeks in early 1991, Israelis became accustomed to carrying the kits everywhere they went, some decorating the small cardboard boxes as fashion statements or with stickers declaring defiance of the Iraqi president, who retaliated for attacks on Baghdad by then-president Bush with missile salvos against Tel Aviv.

Now, with the Iraqi armed forces on heightened alert for a renewed U.S. offensive by Bush's son, the edginess of Israelis has expressed itself in bizarre home-improvement segments on daytime talk shows, featuring a wealth of improved doomsday appliances like sophisticated chemical toilets and home air filters appropriate to houses sealed against off attack by murderous microbes and monstrous nerve gases.

Confirming a report in *Ha'aretz*, Defense Ministry Director-General Amos Yaron said that capsules of Lugol's Iodine - a compound that can help blunts the impact nuclear radiation - would be added to ABC kits 'in the near future.'..."

FATAH, HAMAS, ISLAMIC JIHAD REJECT PULLOUT DEAL

August 20, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Fatah has joined Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations in repudiating the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority Sunday night that led to the IDF withdrawal from Bethlehem and areas in the Gaza Strip Monday.

A statement issued by Fatah activists in the West Bank warned the PA of a 'new conspiracy,' saying the PA negotiators, led by Interior Minister Abdel Razak al-Yahya, had deviated from the Palestinian consensus by accepting the Israeli plan. 'This agreement is aimed at ridding the Israeli government of the crisis it is facing in order to pave the way for the US to launch an aggression against Iraq,' the statement said.

Another leaflet issued by Fatah's armed wing, the Aksa Martyrs Brigades, pledged to continue the fight against Israel, saying this is 'the only way to deter the enemy and make it pay the price for its crimes.'

The threats, especially those made by Fatah, pose a serious challenge to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and his security forces, which are now expected to crack down on the Palestinian radical groups under the terms of the agreement.

PA officials Monday expressed fear that the growing tensions between the PA and extremist groups could lead to a showdown between the two sides. They believe that Arafat will have a tough time trying to convince the hard-liners in Fatah to support the deal..."

ASSAD URGES SYRIANS TO UNITE

August 20, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "President Bashar Assad has called on Syrians to unite in the face of 'tough and difficult' regional and international circumstances, the official *Syrian Arab News Agency*. Speaking during a visit to the province of Hasaka, 650 kilometers northeast of Damascus, Assad said Syria will not submit to any power in the world.

'No power in the world can force us to say anything against our convictions and our convictions are right,' Assad said according to SANA.

Assad did not elaborate. Syria has been under U.S. pressure since September 11 to cut ties with extremist Palestinian terrorist groups it harbors and militant Lebanese Hizbullah group it has long supported.

Washington, which has placed Syria on the U.S. State Department list of countries that support terror, is also irritated at the warming ties between Syria and its former enemy, Iraq. Last month, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk a-Shara said U.S.-Syrian relations are unstable because of Washington's bias toward Israel..."

EUROPEANS NOT NEEDED FOR IRAQ ATTACK

August 19, 2002 Reuters reports: "The United States would not need the support of European allies except Britain to launch an attack against Iraq, a Pentagon adviser said on Sunday, while a top Republican senator said international support was important.

Pentagon adviser Richard Perle said the Bush administration would rely on help from Britain and dissident groups within Iraq, but would not expect other NATO allies to participate if the United States were to launch an attack. 'Our European allies are just not relevant to this. And the one of some importance, the United Kingdom, is, I believe, going to be with us,' Perle said on ABC's *'This Week.'*

'The rest of the Europeans prefer to look the other way or cut deals with Saddam or buy him off in various ways,' he added.

Bush and other top officials maintain that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should be removed because he is trying to build an arsenal of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Iraq denies the charges..."

ISRAEL'S F-16S SAID EQUIPPED TO CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS

August 19, 2002 Ha'aretz reports: "Israel's fleet of F-16s, the backbone of the air force, are the most likely candidates to carry Israeli nuclear weapons says *Nuclear Notebook*, the newsletter published by the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, in its upcoming September-October issue.



'It is generally accepted by friend and foe alike that Israel has been a nuclear state for several decades,' says the three-page newsletter devoted to Israeli nuclear forces. It also notes that Israel's 'declaratory policy' states 'Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East.'

In 2001, says the report, the Pentagon omitted Israel from a published assessment on nuclear proliferation, but a 1991 U.S. Strategic Air Command report 'lists Israel, India, and Pakistan as `de facto' nuclear weapon states.'

That 11-year-old report said at the time that Israel had between 75 and 200 weapons, including bombs, missile-mounted warheads and apparently also some tactical, non-strategic nuclear weapons..."

IRAN DOES NOT RULE OUT MISSILES TO IRAQ

August 19, 2002 The Middle East Newsline reports: "Iran has agreed to examine an Iraqi request to supply Baghdad with intermediate-range missiles and combat aircraft.

Western intelligence sources said Iran and Iraq have agreed to establish a committee to discuss the request by President Saddam Hussein for the Shihab-3 intermediate-range missiles as well as up to 100 aircraft. The sources said the Iranian agreement to consider Baghdad's request comes amid rapidly improving relations between the two countries.

'Iran won't do anything that is rash,' a senior Western intelligence analyst said. 'But the mere fact that Iran did not say no to the Iraqi request is significant and reflects how far their relations have developed.'

The Iranian side of the proposed panel would be represented by Gen. Mohammed Baqer Zolqadr, deputy commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. The sources said the Iranians want the panel to examine ways to ensure that any weapons supplied by Teheran would not be used against the Islamic regime..."

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