



## AUSTRALIA: ISIS HAS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IT COULD USE TO DEVELOP WMD

June 11, 2015 Breitbart.com reported: "The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) has gained access to radioactive material from hospital and research centers in territory it has seized in Iraq and Syria, prompting fears that it could develop a large 'dirty' bomb, Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told The Australian. Last Friday, Bishop warned that ISIS is recruiting 'highly trained professionals' to develop chemical weapons.



She made those comments while addressing the Australia Group, an alliance of about 40 nations, plus the European Community, established 30 years ago to prevent the export of materials that can be used to develop chemical, biological and radiological weapons. Bishop told The Australian that the concerns she alluded to during her speech stemmed from reports filed by Australia's Defense Department and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

NATO expressed concern about ISIS collecting radioactive material from hospitals and research centers that would normally only be available to governments, reportedly said Bishop, adding, 'The insurgents did not just clear out the cash from local banks.'

She said the threat is severe enough to have gained the attention of the Australia Group, which held a session on the subject at its summit last week."..."

## GONE WITH THE WIND: AMERICAN CREDIBILITY?

June 9, 2015 spacedaily.com reported: "While Americans as individuals are generally liked around much of the world, America's standing and credibility are not in such good odor. More than fifty years ago, President John F. Kennedy put in train an explanation for this paradox. As the Cuban Missile Crisis was gathering in October 1962, JFK needed the support of America's allies.

The unanswerable question is what would the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have done if that crisis went hot? Would the alliance have invoked Article 5 of the founding Washington Treaty, meaning that an attack against one was an attack against all? NATO would ultimately do that for the first time in its history on September 12th, 2001, the day after al-Qaida took down New York's Twin Towers.

Fortunately, that scenario never arose. Instead, Kennedy dispatched an emissary to France's then-President Charles de Gaulle with aerial photos of Soviet ballistic missiles being installed in Cuba. De Gaulle told the emissary that he accepted the word of the American president and did not wish to see the photographic evidence.

But Kennedy would also remark separately and quite acidly that the only thing worse than being an enemy of the United States was being an ally or friend. How right he was. Who would accept the word of an American president today or of the badly broken government he represents, particularly post Wikileaks and Edward Snowden?

Of course, American power has relatively declined in the post-Soviet, non-bipolar world. But Congress has become terminally polarized along currently intractable party lines, perplexing and worrying allies and delighting adversaries. Whether approving mindless defense budget cuts through the irrationality of sequestration or inviting the Israeli Prime Minister to address Congress to impede negotiations with Iran, responsibility for the demise of American credibility covers both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

For those of my generation, it is clear how this decline in credibility took root. All presidents dissemble. Three presidents did not tell the truth about Vietnam. While North Vietnam's victory had no lasting geostrategic impact, it was the first war America lost outright, and that did do psychological damage to the nation.

Following Watergate and the Nixon resignation, Jimmy Carter promised never to lie to the American people. Yet the storming of the U.S. embassy in Tehran and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were seen as signs of American impotence. And while Ronald Reagan labeled the Soviet Union an "evil empire," despite his attempts to bankrupt it through an arms race, the USSR would collapse of its own weight because of an unworkable political system shortly after he left office.

That collapse, the 1991 Gulf War that restored confidence in American military might by the 100-hour campaign it took to force Iraq from Kuwait and a booming economy made the last decade of the 20th century one of American rejuvenation. Yet, partisanship has since paralyzed Congress. The grievous mishandling of wars in Afghanistan and, more so, the 2003 Iraq invasion, with minimal Congressional oversight, accelerated the dissolution of America's international standing and credibility.

Although President Barack Obama was dealt the worst hand of any new president entering office since FDR, his belief that the U.S. "acted responsibly" in ending the Afghan and Iraqi wars defied credulity. A geostrategic catastrophe is unfolding in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. And it is largely America's making.

Arab allies fear that America is withdrawing from the region as it "pivots" to Asia and embraces Iran as a new ally. In Europe, Russia's annexation of Crimea and use of intimidating "hybrid" tactics including reminding all of its short-range nuclear missile superiority, chips away at NATO's Article 5 guarantees despite White House reassurances. And China's flexing of its military muscles over the sovereignty of tiny islets is not comforting to Asian friends.

Credibility cannot be rebuilt overnight. Only presidential leadership will repair the damage. To his credit, in 2006, President George W. Bush understood that Iraq was unraveling. He reversed his policies, rejected the advice of Vice President Dick Cheney and replaced Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Now Mr. Obama needs to act as forcefully.”...”

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### **ISLAMIC STATE MILITANTS EYE MECCA, MEDINA**

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*June 10, 2015* VOAnews reported: “From the battlefields of Iraq and Syria, the terror group known as the Islamic State is preparing yet another front in its quest to reestablish an Islamic caliphate, this time hoping to wrest Saudi Arabia from a royal family that has long maintained its grip on power.

Saudi Arabia might seem to be an unlikely target for the Islamic State. Unlike countries such as Iraq, Syria and Libya, it is not a failed state. Also, just like the Islamic State’s leadership, Saudi Arabia’s rulers are adherents of Sunni Islam. Still, counterterrorism officials, former diplomats and analysts say the threat to Saudi Arabia from the Islamic State is one that cannot be dismissed.

‘Their ambitions don’t stop at Ramadi,’ former U.S. ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker told VOA via Skype, referring to the Islamic State’s conquest of the contested capital of Iraq’s Anbar province.

‘What they would really like to be able to do is penetrate into Saudi Arabia and take the holy cities of Mecca and Medina as the capital of their caliphate,’ he added. The latest barrage in the terror group’s opening salvo came just weeks ago with the Islamic State claiming credit for two suicide bombings targeting Shi’ite mosques in eastern Saudi Arabia...”

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### **OBAMA: WE DON’T HAVE A STRATEGY TO FIGHT ISIS**

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*June 9, 2015* Arutz Sheva reported: “In a surprising statement, US President Barack Obama said on Monday that his administration does not have ‘a complete strategy’ to fight the brutal Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist organization that has been expanding its iron grasp over wide sections in Syria and Iraq...

‘When a finalized plan is presented to me by the Pentagon, then I will share it with the American people,’ Obama told the reporters. ‘We don’t yet have a complete strategy because it requires commitments on the part of the Iraqis as well about how recruitment takes place, how that training takes place. So the details of that are not yet worked out.’

The comment would seem to support the massive criticism Obama has faced from his opponents, who charge he has not done enough to confront the threat of ISIS. Prior to the statement, Obama called ISIS terrorists ‘nimble and aggressive,’ noting how they have conquered strategic sites including last month the key city of Ramadi, which is the capital of Iraq’s largest province. After the embarrassing fall of Ramadi, Obama said late last month, ‘I don’t think we’re losing,’ trying to downplay the stinging defeat as a mere tactical setback...”

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### **SENIOR IDF OFFICER WARNS OF 'APPROACHING STORM'**

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*June 9, 2015* Arutz Sheva reported “The Head of the IDF Planning Division, Gen. Nimrod Sheffer, admitted Monday that the IDF was unprepared to deal with terror tunnels Hamas and other groups utilized during Operation Protective Edge last summer.

‘We are looking back at the summer as a lesson we received,’ said Schaffer, speaking at the 15th Herzliya Conference on Monday. He promised, however, that the IDF’s ‘underground challenge will be cracked.’

‘We have put unusual effort into solving technological and operational challenges,’ Sheffer emphasized. ‘We need the IDF to be flexible enough to change as rapidly as our challenges change and move ahead of them.’

He added that the IDF did not always have that outlook, and ‘we learned unpleasant lessons from it.’

The head of the political-security department at the Defense Ministry, Major General (res.) Amos Gilad, reviewed the threats to the State of Israel - and said Iran was the foremost.

‘Our security situation long ago was not so good, and we have a lot of challenges,’ said Gilad at the conference.

‘When you look into the future, there is a storm approaching,’ Gilad warned. ‘You will not believe it until the storm comes.’

‘It is not deterministic, there is much to do, but the challenges here are unprecedented.’...”

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### **UK REPORT: ANGLICANS IN DECLINE, ISLAM AND ATHEISM ON THE RISE**

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*June 8, 2015* Breitbart.com reported: “Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United Kingdom, and the Church of England is in steep decline, according to the latest information released by the British Social Attitudes (BSA) Survey.

The newest BSA report shows that while 40 percent of people identified as ‘Church of England / Anglican’ in 1983, only 17 percent did so in 2014. This means that the number of Anglicans has dropped from 16.5m to just 8.6m over the past 30 years.

The numbers for Islam and atheism however are quite the contrary. Those who identified as Muslim grew from 0.5 percent in 1983, to 5 percent of Britain’s population today. This is an increase of nearly 1 million people, taking the running total to around 2.4m.

Atheism or agnosticism also appears to be on the rise in the UK, with 12.8m (31 percent) claiming to have no religion in 1983, and 24.7m (49 percent) stating the same in 2014.

But Catholicism seems to be holding up, with 4.1m followers in 1983, and 4m in 2014 – a statistic that may be explained by Catholic, eastern European migrants coming to Britain since 2004.

Lord Carey, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, said of the news: ‘These figures are a call to urgent mission. I have no doubt at all that the Archbishops, together with the whole leadership of the Church of England, are doing all they can to reverse this trend.’...”

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, Santa Rosa & Hawaii*



