

Assad Crushes Opposition

Iran Closer to Nuclear Weapon

It appears that Bashar Assad has crushed, in some cases literally, the opposition to his continued rule.

Western intelligence sources reporting in real time found Saturday night, Feb. 11, that Bashar Assad's loyal military and security forces had by and large managed to subdue the rebellion against the regime. They are now purging the last pockets of resistance, especially in Syria's third largest city, Homs. Still to come are possible flare-ups here and there and inevitably more horror stories of atrocities, but to all intents and purposes Syria's eleven-month uprising is all but over.

In recent days, mass demonstrations and battles with armed rebels have virtually disappeared from the streets of the main protest centers of Daraa, Hama, Deir al-Zour, Abu Kemal, Zabadan and the restive outskirts of Damascus, which armed rebels briefly captured last month.

In Homs, soldiers of the 40th and 90th mechanized brigades are hunting down rebels hiding in the town and shooting them on sight. (<http://www.debka.com/article/21729/>)

WASHINGTON – Iranian nuclear experts have completed the component for a nuclear bomb trigger, overcoming a major obstacle in obtaining the bomb, according to sources within Iran.

As reported last May, the Iranian nuclear and military industries, under the order of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, were to weaponize at least two warheads with a nuclear payload no later than next month.

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Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the newly established Task Force on National and Homeland Security, a congressional advisory board, concludes from IAEA intelligence that Iran's nuclear weapons program is very advanced.

"Iran has already developed hemispherical explosive lenses and highly precise detonators," Pry states, "a clear indicator Iran is working on, or has already built, an implosion-type nuclear weapon. The United States used an implosion atomic bomb during World War II to destroy Nagasaki."

Pry notes that reports that Iran is working on an atomic trigger – a device that helps initiate the fission reaction that results in a nuclear explosion – indicates that Iran's nuclear weaponization is advanced, since this is one of the last steps toward building an atomic warhead. Centrifuge technology has enabled Pakistan, North Korea and now Iran to enrich uranium to weapons grade without requiring enormous, and impossible to disguise, gaseous diffusion plants, thus enabling those countries to build nuclear weapons clandestinely.

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In another major development parallel to Iran's nuclear program, Fars News Agency, which is close to the Revolutionary Guards, announced that Iran will launch a one-ton satellite into orbit in the Iranian New Year (starting March 20). (<http://atimetobetray.com/blog/countdown-irans-finger-on-nuclear-trigger/>)

Please read all of the referenced articles for more very important information.

Analysis. It appears that Bashar Assad has crushed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (i.e. Saudi) sponsored revolt to separate Syria from Iran. Part of his success is due to the 15,000 to 35,000 Iranian

Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) Qods Force personnel sent to help Assad. The other part is due to the limits placed on direct action by external forces.

Russia has made it clear that Syria run by Assad is in its national interests. The first move was to send the Kuznetsov carrier group to Tartus. The second was to send Spetznaz special forces personnel to Tartus to defend the Assad regime. The third was to veto the Arab League resolution in the Security Council that would have “authorized” outside intervention in Syria a la Libya. At the moment nobody is prepared to pick a fight with the Russians that could escalate to nuclear war.

What is much more troubling is that information from Reza Kahlili that Iran has perfected a nuclear trigger. This is an essential device for initiating the chain reaction in the fissile material and boosting it to a level where the chain reaction becomes uncontrolled and you get a nuclear detonation. For the sake of clarification, all the information you need to build a nuclear weapon can be found on the Internet.

Once the critical mass is assembled, at maximum density, a burst of neutrons is supplied to start as many chain reactions as possible. Early weapons used an "urchin" inside the pit containing [polonium-210](#) and [beryllium](#) separated by a thin barrier. Implosion of the pit crushed the urchin, mixing the two metals, thereby allowing alpha particles from the polonium to interact with beryllium to produce free neutrons. In modern weapons, the neutron generator is a high-voltage vacuum tube containing a [particle accelerator](#) which bombards a deuterium/tritium-metal hydride target with deuterium and tritium [ions](#). The resulting [small-scale fusion](#) produces neutrons at a protected location outside the physics package, from which they penetrate the pit. This method allows better control of the timing of chain reaction initiation. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapon_design)

The other part of this article that is extremely worrisome is the upcoming attempt to place a one ton satellite in orbit. For example, the B/W-28 bomb/warhead weighs in at 1700 pounds or a bit more depending on which version it was. That is about 300 pounds short of an American ton. (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/systems/b28.htm>). The B-28 yield was in the neighborhood of 1.1 megatons.

While it is doubtful that Iran can produce a nuclear weapon of the yield of a B-28, producing one with the yield of “Fat Man”, 22 kilotons, is very well within the realm of possibility. Such a weapon would pretty much obliterate Tel Aviv. This is Israel's worst nightmare. Presuming that Iran's launch of a one ton satellite is successful, an Israeli attack may follow soon after. Iran will have demonstrated all of the skills necessary to nuke Israel with the exception of a live test. Considering that the deadline for producing a minimum of two warheads is the end of March, we could be very close to a tipping point.

It is also at the end of March, March 20th, that the Enterprise Strike Group has been advertised to transit the Straits of Hormuz. March 20th is also the start of the Iranian New Year. This is also the date that Greece may default on 14.5 million Euros worth of bonds today's vote in the Greek Parliament notwithstanding. I do not believe in coincidences.

At the moment Iran has the tactical advantage. They have forces spread all across the Shiite Crescent from the Houthi in northern Yemen to the Syrian Army. The GCC has not been able to break the crescent in Syria or to prevent its completion in Iraq. It would appear that, based upon the information in *The Coming is Upon Us* that some of the conditions have been satisfied for the return of the Hidden Imam. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia is still alive. Jerusalem is not yet in Muslim hands. I presume that Abbas ultimatum to Israel to accept the 1967 borders and stop settlements in Jerusalem may presaged another intifada to retake Jerusalem.

So far as I know, the IRGC army exercise in southwestern Iran is still in progress. I believe the objective of this exercise is to practice providing land based support to the IRGC naval forces operating in the Straits of Hormuz. Such support might consist of SAM batteries to challenge aircraft attempting to break up a blockade of the Straits as well as artillery support and anti-ship missile support to such forces. This may be confirmed by how much overlap, if any, there is between the IRGC army exercise and the IRGC navy exercise in the Straits the end of the month.

The Iranians are driven by religion. They will not be deterred by anything less than total annihilation.

Si vis pacem, para bellum.

If you wish peace, prepare for war.