

Iran, Hamas and a Third Intefada

Debka is reporting on the firing of the West Bank security chief.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas kicked off preparations for a fresh outbreak of anti-Israel "resistance" – which concerned US and Israeli security circles believe will develop into "Intifada No. 3" – Tuesday, Dec. 27, by suddenly firing, the West Bank's top security officer Maj. Gen. Diab el-Ali. He did not notify US Lt. Gen. Michael R. Moeller, the American Security Coordinator between Israel and the PA appointed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Israel's military coordinator, Maj. Gen. Eitan Dangot, of this step which caught them unawares. Palestinian military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Nidal Dokhan, was appointed to replace Maj. Gen. El-Ali. (<http://www.debka.com/article/21604/>)

Please read the entire article for more important information.

Analysis. Mahmoud Abbas is above all, I believe, a practical politician. He knows exactly what will happen to the money flow if a new Intefada begins. The Palestinian (lack of) Authority is toast. The United States, the Quartet and even the Arab states will cut him off at the knees where money is concerned until the Intefada ends. If Abbas is even contemplating any kind of "resistance" movement on the West Bank, he must have gotten an offer he couldn't refuse from somewhere else.

Abbas' trip to Cairo last weekend to meet Khaled Mashaal must have been interesting in more than one way. I suspect that somewhere along the line Mashaal made Abbas an offer. Come over to the dark side. Renew resistance and Iran will make up any money you lose from the West. The firing of General Diab el-Ali is apparently Abbas' answer. Since Abbas can't seem to get the Israelis to agree to self destructive preconditions for peace talks and unilateral attempts to achieve statehood through the UN are getting stymied, it's back to fighting.

Why would the Iranians make Abbas such an offer? Because the recapture of Jerusalem is a primary requirement for the return of the Mahdi. I have seen no writing anywhere that insists that Jerusalem be recaptured by Shiites. So let the Palestinians (Sunnis) do it and suffer the casualties. That means less of them to kill later. Let the Israelis waste their strength against the Palestinians so they will have less available for Gaza and Hezbollah.

The time required to get the Intefada organized is postulated by Debka at two months. That fits right in with the return of good weather for war. This also opens up another front in the sectarian civil war in the making. Israel can now be attacked from all three sides simultaneously. Any additional troops picked up from Iraq are now freed from assisting Syria to knock out Jordan and Israel and can be deployed to the eastern front which is the west coast of the Persian Gulf.

Or the Iraqis can be deployed to the western front to give the Syrians more infantry to support the Syrian armor. This infantry would be useful as garrison troops in Jordan to prevent an insurgency in the Syrian rear.

Abbas also realizes that elections are scheduled for May. He needs practical achievements to hope to stay in power as President of the PA. Perhaps he is using the Intefada to bargain for more goodies from the US, Quartet and Arabs. It will take a pretty big prize to induce Abbas to forgo the Iranian offer.

