

Iran Ups the Lebanon Ante

Debka is reporting that Iran plans to send warships to the Mediterranean. (<http://www.debka.com/article/20580/>).

Less than 24 hours after the breakdown of its nuclear dialogue with the six world powers in Istanbul, Iran announced plans Sunday, Jan. 23, to send a fleet of warships, including a home-made destroyer, on operational and intelligence-gathering missions to the Red Sea and on to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal. Debkafile's military sources: Parts of the fleet will in fact be deployed in the three waters around Israel's southern and western shores.

Tehran is taking advantage of the lack of military and diplomatic momentum on the part of US and Israel for a naval thrust to expand its range of operations and encroach on their areas of control.

It is also a rapid response to the arrival of the USS Enterprise carrier with a strike group carrying 6,000 sailors and marines and 80 warplanes in the Mediterranean at the end of last week on its way to the Arabian Sea opposite Iran. British ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair's call on the West to stop apologizing and react to Iran with force was not lost on the rulers of the Islamic Republic.

At the same time, reports from Iran indicate that the removal of subsidies is having a severe effect on the Iranian economy.

Tehran- *Razin Mosleh Factory producer of fiberglass rooms has fired all its workers recently, all its appliances are collected and a part of it sold. The factory is completely closed now.*

Tehran- *Mehregan Pars Factory in Karaj Especial Road has recently fired some of its contract workers.*

One of the workers said: "recently all official laborers are fired on different excuses and they hire new laborers with contract so that the manager would be able to put any pressure that he wants on them and be able to fire them in all conditions".

In addition, Iranian officials continue to defy the World in regards to their nuclear program and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Tehran- Jan. 21, 2011

Permanent representative of clerical dictatorship at IAEA, Ali Asghar Sultanieh just one day before the Istanbul negotiations had said: "Iran will neither obey the resolution nor stop (uranium) enrichment". On Thursday night Jan. 20 amid reporters, Sultanieh said: "we will not implement the resolutions of UN Security Council under no condition and we will not stop the process of uranium enrichment even for a moment".

In a controversial saying he said that Tehran counts weapons of mass destruction as 'Harum (banned by religion)' and the leadership of Islamic Republic 'has condemned' building them!!!

It is to be mentioned that last week Ahmadinejad had said that Iran will not abandon its nuclear program even if 100,000 resolutions are issued.

Yazd- Jan. 21, 2011

Ahmadinejad expressed his concern about the outcome of Hariri court in which it is said that Khamenei would be announced as an accomplice and said that the court wants to accuse the nations that are Lebanon's friends!

Giving a speech in Yazd, imposter Ahmadinejad attacked the judges of the court and said: "we are

familiar with their methods...they accuse the pure forces and friend nations with con to arouse disputes amongst them. The arrogant (governments) support them too".

He added: "you must be tried in popular courts but you sit and try the others. Your case is a black one, don't make it worse".

Please read the entire Debka article for more important information.

To this we must add the current instability in Lebanon which may become a direct confrontation between Iran's proxy Hezbollah and the United States.

This from NOW! Lebanon.

"What has happened, and is still happening, is a political assassination of the Resistance - [the group] that is one of the most [important] in the region and that is protecting Lebanon today," Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Sunday in response to Prime Minister Saad Hariri's Thursday statement in which he claimed that he is being politically assassinated.

Analysis. This confrontation is part and parcel of the Hezbollah response to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the impending release of indictments. These indictments supposedly name senior members of Hezbollah as responsible for the assassination of Rafik Hariri along with possibly senior members of the Syrian government and perhaps Ali Khamenei. None of those who may be indicted can be counted upon to show up at the Hague to be tried in person. Therefore, they will be tried *in absentia*.

But the movement of naval forces is a definite raising of the stakes. I would expect that some number of these ships would take up position off the Lebanese coast. They would be put there to prevent the free operation of the Enterprise battle group. Their tasks will also include blocking the removal of the UNFIL by the Amphibious Ready Group presumably collocated with the Enterprise battle group.

Besides intelligence gathering off the Israeli and Egyptian coasts, these ships may also be prepared to escort a blockade breaking flotilla to Gaza. That would force a direct confrontation between Israeli and Iranian naval vessels. At that point Israel must choose war with Iran or the breaking of the Gaza blockade and the landing of supplies for Hamas and the other "resistance" groups in Gaza. Some of these supplies would undoubtedly find their way to the West Bank.

Were I advising the President I would have him take the following actions. First, get the UNFIL out of Lebanon now while we still have relatively unimpeded access to the beaches. Same with all American civilians and citizens of other friendly nations. Beirut can quickly become untenable for these people as Nasrallah demonstrated last week with his almost takeover of Beirut. The Lebanese Army doesn't have the firepower or the will I suspect to take on Hezbollah.

Second, dispatch a second carrier battle group to the Sixth fleet AOR. The Iranians will "press to test" our resolve. They must see that we are ready to bring overwhelming force to bear and actually be prepared to use it.

Third, understand that either of the first two actions may cause us to sink Iranian ships and thereby precipitate a Middle East wide War. But understand that the majority of the nations are on our side. They have been asking us to take out Iran for a long time. They will help.

Fourth, dispatch a force of bombers to Diego Garcia that makes clear to the Iranians what will happen if they don't back down. But understand that a significant part of the mullahocracy wants war as a way to bring forth the Hidden Imam. This is the thrust of Moqtada al-Sadr's return to Iraq. He is there to be Iran's messenger and agent of confusion. We must insure that the nine brigades are ready to combine themselves into the heavy corps that they make up most of.

Five, talk to the nation about the Middle East. Make it clear that we may be on the cusp of a major war there that will make Operation Iraqi Freedom look like an exercise. We are not forcing the war. Iran is. Make it clear that the only way to stop this march to war is for the Iranian people to throw the mullahs out. They will need help to do this and we must make it clear that we will help them.

Six, reinforce the fleet at the mouth of the Straits of Hormuz. This will probably require taking carrier groups from the Pacific and redeploying them to the Fifth Fleet AOR. This will require reinforcing the Pacific with land based air.

Seventh, understand the old Latin maxim: *Si vis pacem, para bellum*. Wars do not occur because the other side was too strong for the aggressor.

We cannot control what Iran does or what North Korea does. The United States must always be the last country to want war and the first country to beat the aggressor into submission if we are to have a free and peaceful World.