

Iran Is Developing an Eastern Front Against Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia

Debka is reporting on a phone call between His Majesty Abdullah II, King of Jordan, and Prime Minister Netanyahu. According to Debka, the ostensible purpose of the phone call was to consult on the Palestinian situation. However, Debka is reporting that the subject of the Palestinians was cover for a discussion of a much more threatening topic. (<http://www.debka.com/article/20524/>).

The urgent phone call Jordan's King Abdullah II put in to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu Wednesday Jan. 5 dealt only marginally with stalled diplomacy with the Palestinians. The king pressed for answers on what Jerusalem and Amman can do to curb Iran's advancing domination of Iraq in the face of America's inaction. ... The call, which came through the day before the Israeli prime minister met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for lunch at Sharm al Sheikh, elicited no real practical replies. Netanyahu confirmed that Israel still stood by the guarantee of support its armed forces and security services had granted the Hashemite Kingdom and its ruler for the past 60 years. Both the king and the prime minister appreciated that words are not enough. Since both their military and strategic policies are synchronized with Washington, the total disintegration of American strategic positions in Baghdad Wednesday, Jan 5, was an alarming setback to both Jerusalem and Amman.

Please read the entire article for lots more important information.

Analysis. Events continue to bear out the “Shiite Crescent” theory of King Abdullah. Nor do I doubt that Saudi Arabia is the eventual target and Israel merely an enticing morsel. While that is not the way the conflict is presented nor is it the manner in which the conflict originated, the Islamic Revolution of Khomeini changed all of that. The major conflict in the Middle East is now the Sunni-Shii conflict over which sect will be the leading sect of Islam.

While he was alive, Khomeini was able to keep the radicals lead presumptively by Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi from influencing too much of the government. With the death of Khomeini and the assumption of post of Supreme Guide by Ali Khamenei (who is NOT an Ayatollah), the Yazdi faction has radicalized a good part of the government in favor of the proposition that it is Iran's duty as a Shiite Islamic nation to help bring forth the Hidden Imam. Not only that, Shiism is the true sect of Islam and must take the leading position by becoming Guardian of the Two Mosques supplanting the House of Saud.

That is the reason for the return of Moqtada al-Sadr now to his base of support in Najaf.. Najaf and Karbala are the two holiest cities in Shii Islam. Najaf is the home of the Imam Ali Mosque and Karbala is the home of the Imam Hussein Mosque. (For a discussion of the Sunni-Shia split see Lezley Hazelton's *After the Prophet.*) His mission apparently is to maintain Iran's influence over the Maliki government as Iran's agent.

Right now the US has nine brigades in Iraq acting as “Advise and Assist” brigades. If reorganized, these brigades (three heavy infantry, three Stryker, one armored and two helicopter) form the nucleus of two heavy infantry division. Add to this the heavy brigade stationed in Kuwait and you have a heavy infantry corps minus certain corps units principally artillery. I strongly suspect that the artillery pieces are in the neighborhood awaiting only the addition of people. These units will all be out of Iraq by the end of the year.

The big question is where will all of these units deploy to? Their people need a rest and their equipment

is in need of serious repair and probably replacement. Home would be best. But if home is in the United States, that is a long return trip when Iran decides to attack. What is more important than where the people go is where the equipment goes. The repair depots for this equipment are in the United States.

We should all remember that it took six months for the allied forces to prepare for Desert Storm. Most of that time was taken to insure the orderly movement of heavy equipment and supplies from Germany and the CONUS to Saudi Arabia. While much of that equipment and supplies is now prepositioned in the area, it will still take a finite amount of time to move it to where it is needed. This time the move will probably be complicated by the loss of free use of the Persian Gulf.

The Obama Administration is attempting to solve an insoluble problem. As long as the "Palestinians" have the support of Iran, they will continue to ask for things that no Israeli government can give and survive. Then they will complain to the "international community" about Israeli intransigence because the Israelis will not give away the store. The Palestinians will be in no mood to cooperate unless and until the Israelis beat the crap out of them. Until we recognize that truth, no progress will be made to solve the Palestinian "problem".

In the meantime, Iran continues to consolidate its strategic positions in Iraq and Lebanon. The stationing of three American carriers plus the *de Gaulle* in the Arabian Sea had absolutely no effect on Iran's behavior. Nor would they unless their aircraft were flying over downtown Tehran. A show of force means absolutely nothing when the other party is aware that it is only a show of force. Baring the fangs does little if you don't occasionally take a bite out of the bad guys. Nor is death much of a deterrent to people who believe that death for the sake of Allah gets them into Heaven and 72 virgins.

In the meantime both sides will continue to plan for the impending war. As noted here, the Saudis are buying equipment at a rapid rate. The staff level cooperation between Israel and the Gulf Cooperation Council States plus Egypt will continue. Iran will continue to spread its influence via Hezbollah and Hezbollah's contacts with the Palestinian "resistance" groups principally Hamas. While it is unlikely that open warfare will begin while the American units are still in Iraq, 2012 will be an interesting time within the meaning of the curse: May you live in interesting times.