

Is Iraq Becoming a Province of Iran?

It appears that Iraq may be becoming a de facto province of Iran.

Commander of Iran's Quds Force, Brig. Gen. Qasem Soleimani has said that the Islamic Republic controls "one way or another" over Iraq and south Lebanon and that Tehran is capable of influencing the advent of Islamist governments in order to fight "arrogant" powers, ISNA student agency reported on Thursday.

"The enemies are trying to besiege the Islamic Republic of Iran, but this symposium is an opportunity for thousands of youth who play an influential role in the Islamic awareness to travel Iran and shed sensitivities of Iran-phobia by observing the an Islamic government founded on religious principles in Iran," Gen. Soleimani, who reports directly to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said.

Speaking about Iran and Lebanon, Gen. Soleimani said: "These regions are one way or another subject to the control of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its ideas."

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Mowaffak al-Rubaie, Iraq's former national security minister, told the London-based asharq al-Awsat newspaper in July 2010, "He (Suleimani) is the most powerful man in Iraq without question," "Nothing gets done without him." (<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/01/20/189447.html>)

It appears that Iran through Maliki is slowly removing any Sunni influence from the government of Iraq.

Iraqi authorities said Thursday they arrested a politician belonging to the party of Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, who is at the centre of a row after he was charged with running death squads.

The warrant against Hashemi, who denies the accusations, came shortly after US forces completed their withdrawal from Iraq and has pitted the Shiite-led government against the main Sunni-backed bloc, stoking sectarian tensions.

Riyadh al-Adhadh, deputy chief of Baghdad provincial council, was arrested while on his way to work on Wednesday in connection with funding insurgent groups, officials said.

"An insurgent group confessed that he is funding them and giving them orders," a Baghdad security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Adhadh is a member of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni grouping that belongs to the broader Iraqiya coalition to which Hashemi belongs. Hashemi is a former leader of the IIP but has since split from the party.

The IIP confirmed the arrest, but condemned it as "an unprecedented escalation" and called for Adhadh to be freed. (<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/sunni-politician-arrested-iraq-row-festers-100947003.html>)

The Obama administration is preparing to close the U.S. embassy in Damascus and evacuate all American personnel by the end of this month amid rapid deterioration of the security situation in Syria, senior administration officials said.

The embassy will be shuttered, officials said, unless embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad provides enhanced protection that he has so far been unwilling to authorize. "Unless we see that, we have no choice," said one U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak about internal planning on the Syrian crisis. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us->

preparing-close-embassy-in-syria/2012/01/20/gIQAhOxREQ_print.html)

Please read both articles for more important information.

Analysis. Iraq obviously figures prominently in Iranian plans for the conquest of the Arabian Peninsula for Shiite Islam. The Shiites of Iraq provide a significant increase in manpower to any military force. The oil production and refining capability greatly increase the amount of crude under control of Iran and the amount of refined products available to Iran's economy in the face of the current embargo on refined products.

Control of Iraq provides an overland supply route to Syria and Lebanon. This route is free of international inspections. I believe it is currently being used to supply Bashar Assad with equipment and munitions to suppress the Saudi sponsored revolution against him. With Iran balancing out the Saudi money and equipment given to the revolutionaries, it is likely that the revolution will not succeed. The best the Saudis can hope for is a festering insurgency that will embarrass but not topple Assad.

Hezbollah will continue to receive logistics support from Iran via Syria. This will allow Iran to equip Hezbollah with weapons heretofore unavailable to them. Such systems might include advanced surface-to-air (SAM) systems and advanced anti-ship missiles. These systems could well negate Israeli superiority over and around Lebanon.

At the same time the United States is being forced out of the Middle East. The US was unable to get the Maliki government to sign a Status of Forces Agreement that exempted US military personnel from local laws. We could not stay and expose our people to all sorts of Sharia derived laws with no recourse to American legal proceedings.

Now we are closing the Damascus embassy. I do not doubt that the attacks on our embassy and its personnel were committed by Syrian security forces and pro Assad Syrians. Our embassy in Beirut is all but useless. I expect our embassy in Baghdad to come under increasing pressure from terrorist activity by Shiite militias to force us from Baghdad.

The Shiite Crescent has been completed. Iraq has become Iran's Manchukuo. Its government takes its orders from the Iranian ambassador who is a senior Iranian Revolutionary guards Qods Force general. Iraq is occupied by Qods force members masquerading as pilgrims. The Qods Force personnel are assisted by "Quisling" forces: the militias of Muqtada al-Sadr and the Supreme Council of the revolution in Iraq. Iraq's Shiite religious establishment is now under Iranian control through Ayatollah Shahrودي the "Guardian of the Jurists". Trouble in River City.