

U. S. Eases Military Pressure on Iran

Debka is reporting (<http://www.debka.com/article/20439/>) that the USS Harry S. Truman has been reassigned from the Persian Gulf (Fifth Fleet) to the Aegean Sea (Sixth Fleet). Debka is interpreting this move as a relaxation of military pressure on Iran.

“Shortly before the Six Power talks with Iran resumed this week, US President Barack Obama ordered the *USS Harry S. Truman* aircraft carrier to withdraw from Gulf waters opposite Iran and redeploy in the Aegean Sea. This action signaled Washington's switch to diplomacy and the search for middle ground on the nuclear controversy with Iran through engagement, debkafile's US and military sources report.

The mighty carrier with more than 70 warplanes on its decks was accordingly instructed to exit the US Navy's Fifth Fleet Command which covers US military operations in the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea and join the Sixth Fleet which is responsible for US naval and air activity in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Obama thus abandoned the military posture he adopted only six weeks ago to bring its rulers to heel by a buildup of naval strength opposite Iran's waters. It was then that he consigned the *USS Abraham Lincoln* to the Persian Gulf, raising the number of aircraft carriers deployed there to three, including the French *Charles de Gaulle*.”

Please read the entire article for more information.

Analysis. Considering the totality of the air forces arrayed against Iran by the Gulf Cooperation Council states, France and the United States, the loss of 70 aircraft is not that significant. This move may well presage the unsealing of the indictments by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and the need to cover the evacuation of the UN forces from Lebanon. This would be especially true of the Truman battle group is now the only battle group in the Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility.

In light of Turkey's journey to the dark side, it is quite possible that Turkey would prohibit the use of Incirlik Air Base to aircraft involved in supporting the evacuation, possibly under fire, of the UN forces. Other countries in the area, notably Egypt, may allow their air bases to be used for air support of the UN forces. They may even provide support themselves. But there is no way of knowing until the time comes.

But understand Israel's, and therefore Debka's, position. They view any diminution of the forces arrayed against Iran as a direct threat to their survival. Hence they are calling this a gesture of good will towards their main enemy. It may be. It may also be killing two birds with one stone: a goodwill gesture to the Iranians prior to the nuclear talks and getting a carrier battle group to the Sixth Fleet.

If this is a good will gesture to the Iranians, it is a waste of time. The Iranians will view this as a sign of weakness. They will press harder. We found out in a place called Vietnam that gradualism in the face of a determined enemy does not work. It took the Christmas bombing offensive carried out by a resolute Commander-in-Chief and the threat of the loss of their civilization to convince the North Vietnamese it was time to stop stalling at the Paris Peace Talks and get down to business.

It will take an equivalent shock to the Iranian system to get them to understand that we are serious. We must then be prepared for global war against Iran and its proxies such as Venezuela. We must be prepared for acts of terror and sabotage carried out by Hezbollah cells already in the United States. We are not prepared for that. We should be. We must be.

