

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:15:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223498085

Documents (100)

1. [Zarqawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

2. [THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

3. [The case for negotiating with the mullahs ; Bush in Europe I](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

4. [Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

5. [From Iraq , democracy creeps forward](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

6. [LIBERALS MUST SEE THAT MORE THAN OIL IS AT STAKE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

7. [Creeping Democracy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

8. [AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS BANNED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

9. [THE GREATER WAR; IRAQ IS A STEPPINGSTONE, NOT A FINAL STOP](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

10. ['SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

11. [Powell heads home with peace hopes collapsing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

12. [6 Palestinians killed as Israel abandons truce: Cabinet approves 'necessary measures' to defend country](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

13. [Bush Says Syria Has Chemical Arms](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

14. [The U.S. and Iran together again?; Reconcilable differences](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

15. [Student Protests in Tehran Become Nightly Fights for Freedom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

16. ['Spinning Into Control'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

17. [POINT OF REFERENCE: U.S. - SYRIA HISTORY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

18. [America is rolling back global terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

19. [Dark comedy from ashes of Lockerbie;New play from Des Dillon exposes 'farcical' trial of suspected PanAm
103 bombers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

20. [Freeing Iraqis is worth the trouble ; War with Iraq ?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to

21. [*Broadcasting the War*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

22. [*In the wake of Commodore Lehre*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

23. [*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Grace period's end has no local effect*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

24. [*Israel abandons truce and kills six Palestinians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

25. [*Aiding The Enemy*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

26. [Get media-wise in Iraq](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

27. [Telling Friend From Foe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

28. [Problem goes deeper than navy man's slip](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

29. [Suicide bomber kills self, 2 others at outdoor mall](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

30. [Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

31. [Misleaders lead to more murders](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

32. [National Briefs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

33. [New tune: Where Have All The Commies Gone?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

34. [ADING THE ENEMY; ISRAEL UNDER SHARON, PURSUING RASH MILITARY SOLUTIONS, HAS GIVEN ARAFAT A HEROISM HE DOESN'T DESERVE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

35. [Linked and dangerous: Terror Inc](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

36. [SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

37. [*Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

38. [*Vegetarian green light*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

39. [*Measuring the ripples*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

40. [*In Focus*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

41. [*Tiger tales*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

42. [Castro's Acolyte](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

43. [Murderers are not martyrs - Terror in London](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

44. [2 tragedies show superpowers' lack of wisdom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

45. [WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

46. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

47. [News in Brief](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

48. [Spectre of Nam rises with death toll: The last time U.S. troops had a two-week loss like this one in Iraq was during Vietnam War](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

49. [Secular state's fragility on display](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

50. [Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

51. [Russia finds its own Black Magic Woman](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

52. [REPLACING SADDAM WOULD HELP TRANSFORM THE ARAB WORLD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

53. [ISRAELIS SUSPECT AL-QAIDA IS TIED TO LATEST ATTACKS; MISSILES FIRED AT AIRPLANE IN KENYA RAISE NEW FEARS AMONG SECURITY OFFICIALS; " ISRAEL FACES TERROR ALL OVER"](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

54. [The dove patrolling on the hawk's wing: Israeli peacemaker Shimon Peres tells the Guardian that his warring fellow septuagenarians Sharon and Arafat are old enough to have gained wisdom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

55. [Political chain reaction shakes up the Arab world](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

56. [The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , the Mideast and North Korea](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to

Dec 31, 2005

57. [*Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

58. [*After attack, Powell delays Arafat talks; The meeting planned for today was postponed after a female bomber killed six and wounded 84 in Jerusalem.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

59. [*Wanted: New martyrs: Recruiting and preparing volunteers for future suicide attacks takes place with considerable openness within Iran*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

60. [*Wily shark resurfaces for another bite at Iran presidency*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

61. [*Hamas fires new rockets at Israel*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to

Dec 31, 2005

62. [*Iraqi regime change way to peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

63. [*SCOTSMAN DIARY: BEWARE THE PARTY POOPERS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

64. [*America has sown the seeds of civil war in Iraq : It's not religious rivalry but the puppet regime that threatens stability*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

65. [*Campuses struggle to separate Islam from terrorism*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

66. [*Readers' views*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

67. [*West anxiously courting a willing Iran : With its leader's 'remarkable' conversation, Islamic state opens door to a new relationship*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

68. [*Life was a lot simpler before Sept. 11*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

69. [*Thinking About Iraq \(I\)*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

70. [*A racist conference, full of lies*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

71. [*Maimed soldier prepared to go back and lose other leg*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

72. [*The leadership that's lacking is in the Arab world*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

73. [*1983 Beirut bomb began era of terror*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

74. [*Return to Lebanon UNTAMED DESTINATIONS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

75. [*Iran 's Michael Moore, criticized on 2 fronts*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

76. [*News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

77. [*Thou shalt have democracy, for God and the US*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

78. [Are we patsies, or what?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

79. [KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY!](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

80. [The moment of truth for General Musharraf; India and Pakistan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

81. [Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

82. [Just How Stupid Is Al Qaeda?](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

83. [McClooneyism II: The Protocols of Big Oil](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

84. [Iran victor turns his back on US to pursue nuclear aim](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

85. [3 Americans in Israel among 7 killed by bomb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

86. [Divest them of their prejudice](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

87. [Lunch in the Limelight for the Producers ON THE GO](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

88. ['Diplomacy' with Iran self-destructive](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

89. [Mufti mixes motives](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

90. [ON OSAMA, WALKER, THE SAUDIS, THE FLAG, KIPLING, ETC.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

91. [FLAWED IDEALISM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

92. [Foot soldiers of nihilism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

93. [*News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

94. [*In Surprise, Parenting Wins Top Award for Magazines*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

95. [*News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

96. [*Search for 20 more Britons on the suicide bomb trail*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

97. [*Powell heads to Syria with a mixed message*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to Dec 31, 2005

98. [*GUNFIGHTS AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH 13 killed as Israel holds seven towns*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

99. [ARAFAT PULLS BACK FROM THE BRINK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

100. [Jane Eisner: Terrorism's tenuous link to poverty; The absence of democratic institutions, not the plight of the poor and uneducated in Arab lands, needs to be the focus of Western antiterrorism efforts.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2001 to
Dec 31, 2005

Zarqawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent

New York Sun (Archive)

May 19, 2005 Thursday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 761 words

Byline: By ELI LAKE, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

An audiotape that surfaced yesterday, purportedly from the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, explicitly sanctions the murder of Muslim women and children if they stand in the way of Jihad.

"God ordered us to attack the infidels by all means," the voice claiming to be Mr. Zarqawi said in the recording found in Cairo. The man went further, saying the slaying was justified, "even if armed infidels and unintended victims - women and children - are killed together." One administration official here said that the recording was in the process of being authenticated by intelligence authorities, but that early analysis suggested the tape was real.

Mr. Zarqawi, according to an Associated Press report filed yesterday from Baghdad, urged terrorists in Syria to plan attacks in April when the elected Iraqi parliament was negotiating the formation of a government and there was a post-election lull in violence against Iraqi civilians. The newswire cited a senior American military official as saying intelligence from the field suggested a high-level meeting in Syria took place. There, a decision was made to intensify the attacks. "The Syrian meeting, possibly attended by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi himself, has led to one of the bloodiest periods since the U.S.-led invasion two years ago," the AP reported. Since April 28 when the new government was formed, nearly 500 Iraqis have been killed in terror attacks.

The Jordanian-born terror leader has referred to his organization as Al Qaeda in Iraq. Last year, the American military released a letter Mr. Zarqawi drafted to the leadership of Al Qaeda expressing his desire to foment a civil war between Iraq's Shiite population and its Sunni Muslim minority. In the last month, Iraqi military officials have said that they have apprehended lieutenants of Mr. Zarqawi.

At the Pentagon yesterday, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, denounced the new message from Mr. Zarqawi. He said, "What he says is, it's okay for Muslims to kill Muslims, and not just any Muslims but innocents, men, women, and children. And that's what he's been doing."

The tape surfaced after senior administration officials chastised Syria for opening its border with Iraq to the flow of suicide bombers and jihadists. On her way home from Iraq earlier this week, Secretary of State Rice said Syria's "unwillingness to deal with the crossings of their border into Iraq is frustrating the will of the Iraqi people." She added that America has asked Syria's neighbors to pressure the regime there to do more to crack down on the flow of foreign terrorists.

Zarqawi Purportedly Sanctions Murders Of the Innocent

A state-run newspaper in Syria yesterday accused Ms. Rice of lying, saying that the Syrian regime has worked to stabilize the web of roads connecting Syria and Iraq that have for centuries served as smuggling routes. "These accusations are baseless," the paper, Tishrin, wrote in an editorial.

The accusations, however, are not new. The American embassy in Damascus before the war cabled the State Department claiming that Hezbollah leaders and other terrorist groups were recruiting volunteer fighters in fairgrounds outside Damascus to serve in Iraq. The Pentagon during the initial hostilities of Operation Iraqi Freedom publicly urged Syria to stop busloads of terrorists from crossing into Iraq. More recently, the Treasury Department has issued internal reports claiming that large swaths of the Ba'athist elements of the insurgency are funded by Syrian banks.

It was not until November that the State Department officially began a sustained public berating of Syrian bad behavior. Syria and Iran were invited in November to a conference on the insurgency in Cairo that was heavily promoted by Ms. Rice's predecessor, Colin Powell, as a summit to negotiate a regional policy on the widespread terror campaign in Iraq. The British government in September arranged for - but is yet to have followed through on - the sale of night vision goggles and other border-control technology to better secure the border between Iraq and Syria.

"The border between Syria and Iraq is invisible to the insurgents. The campaign of insurgency is based on alliances that cross these borders. These bonds go back hundreds of years," the president of the reform party of Syria, Farid Ghadry, said yesterday. "It is no surprise that Zarqawi has been able to get support from terrorists with the knowledge and approval of the Syrian government." Mr. Ghadry's organization will open political offices next month in Syria, and has pressed the Assad regime to hold free elections.

Load-Date: May 19, 2005

THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 722 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of al-Qaida training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny we helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated **women**, are helping track down fugitive killers.

In Iraq, we mourn our losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam Hussein did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after we turn over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps TV sets and air conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now over 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. (The WPA lives.)

We are training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaida terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," says one observer.

Optimistic? In the grand design to uproot the causes of the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, defeat is no option. We have to believe in the popular success of a combination of democracy and prosperity. In this generation, the world has seen the power of the human desire for freedom.

THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ IS VERY SLOW, BUT DEFIANTLY STEADY

From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution. Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen Bashar Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, and probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for al-Qaida killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

A million and a half Kurds live in Syria, despised by the rulers in Damascus. After Syrian Kurds saw the blessings of freedom flow to their ethnic comrades in Iraq, some were emboldened to respond to Arab taunting at a soccer game. Bashar's goons, remembering his father's bloody " Hamas rules," shot a score of the unarmed protesters as a warning to the quarter-million Kurds the dictator keeps stateless.

Congress, more hawkish than President Bush on this state sponsor of terror, passed the Syria Accountability Act four months ago with large majorities; this week, Bush is expected to put some of its authorized economic squeeze on Bashar. He should consider that Step One.

This unified American message -- substantial largess for free Iraq contrasted with the start of serious sanctions for despotic Syria -- will not be lost on the Arab League meeting in Tunisia.

Success of democracy in Iraq is the key to democratic reform throughout the greater Middle East. When that reform dawns in Ramallah, there can be an independent, contiguous Palestine.

When creeping democracy gradually brings a better life to people of the region, the basis for hatred and terror will erode and the suicide bomber will pass from the scene.

Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

Load-Date: April 1, 2004

***The case for negotiating with the mullahs ;
Bush in Europe I***

The International Herald Tribune

February 19, 2005 Saturday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 4

Length: 773 words

Byline: Jean Francois-poncet

Dateline: PARIS

Body

While the skies of trans-Atlantic relations have become almost blue again, there persists a very serious disagreement that Condoleezza Rice, in the course of her well-received visit to Europe, either could not or did not want to resolve: Iran's nuclear program.

There is no doubt that this problem and the disagreements it creates will figure strongly in the talks President George W. Bush is about to hold with Europeans.

The difference is not over the desired result, but over how to achieve it. Neither Europeans nor Americans have any doubt about the military character of the Iranian program, nor about the unacceptable threat it poses not only to Israel, but to security and stability in the entire Middle East. They also agree that Iran's declarations, no matter how solemn, and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency are not enough to guarantee that the program remain civil. That kind of certainty can come only from the renunciation by Iran of all activities linked to the enrichment of uranium and the separation of plutonium.

International Herald Tribune

To achieve this assurance, France, Britain and Germany, with the support of their European partners, have chosen the path of negotiations. Not, as it is thought in Washington, out of appeasement or weakness, but because they believe that Iran aspires to escape from its economic and political isolation and is prepared to pay a high price to do so. Iran's industry is obsolete, and its economy is incapable of providing jobs for the 800,000 young people who enter the work force every year, forcing the best to leave the country.

Political ostracism has also prevented the regime from playing the role that it believes it is entitled to on the international stage. The fact that Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment during the negotiations indicates that it is interested in the European initiative.

But it has become increasingly clear that this interest will translate into an agreement only if the United States becomes involved in the process, directly or indirectly. The economic opening that Iran seeks requires, in effect, at least a partial lifting of the American embargo, which prevents Europe from delivering the equipment, notably the Airbus, and the advanced technologies that Iran wants. It is also obvious that Iran's application for membership in the World Trade Organization has no hope without Washington's support. What Europe can offer on its own is not on the same level as the concessions it demands of Iran.

The case for negotiating with the mullahs ; Bush in Europe I

Condoleezza Rice wished the Europeans the best of luck, which was a departure from the skepticism shown up until then by the Americans. But best wishes are not enough, and there is nothing to indicate that on Iran, the United States is disposed to go any further. The justifiable antagonism that the ayatollahs inspire with their disregard for human rights, discrimination against women or support of Hezbollah and Hamas pushes the United States toward "regime change" as the political priority. Thus the refusal to negotiate, and the temptation to seek immediate Security Council sanctions, and then to proceed, if necessary, to the destruction of Iran's nuclear installations.

Would that weaken the regime? Probably not. More likely, Iranian public opinion, which may be hostile to the religious authorities but remains intensively nationalistic, would rally around the regime and against the West. The Iranian opposition, led by Shirin Ebadi, whose courageous struggle for human rights won her a Nobel Peace Prize, has publicly warned Washington against the politics of force.

What's more, while it is incontestable that the regime in Tehran is unpopular, that does not mean it is fragile. The regime has a totally loyal praetorian guard of 150,000 men in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and with immense oil resources, it can placate malcontents with lavish handouts which it does not hesitate to do.

That is why the only way out of this dilemma is for the United States to give the European-led negotiations every chance. If they succeed, they will eliminate the threat posed by the Iranian nuclear program while opening Iran to the world and obliging it to liberalize its economy, which is probably the best way in the medium term to weaken the religious regime.

If they fail, which is entirely possible, the Europeans will willingly rally around sanctions. And if Iran's nuclear sites are eventually destroyed, there will be less of a backlash, inside or outside Iran.

Jean Francois-Poncet, a member of the French Senate, is a former foreign minister of France.

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Load-Date: February 20, 2005

Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.

Ottawa Citizen

June 18, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A11

Length: 727 words

Byline: Anton La Guardia, The Daily Telegraph

Body

The Lebanese vote tomorrow, the Iranians were casting their ballots yesterday, the Palestinians chose a new leader last January, an elected government has taken power in Iraq and Egyptians are being promised a chance to choose their president.

It may be a late spring, but all of a sudden the shoots of democracy seem to be sprouting across the arid politics of the Middle East.

There are buds even in closed monarchies like Saudi Arabia, which held its first municipal elections in February. In Kuwait, **women** now have the vote.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on her first major Middle East tour this weekend, is delighted, saying "this is a world that is really unrecognizable" from only a year ago.

U.S. President George W. Bush is convinced Islamic terrorism can only be defeated through the "ending of tyranny" in the Muslim world, and he believes he is creating the right soil for democracy. His war in Iraq broke up the hard earth of despotism, the White House believes, and now his calls for freedom are providing the fertilizer.

Many Muslims argue that U.S. tolerance of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the U.S. occupation of Iraq, have encouraged extremism and weakened reformists.

Still, the transformation of American policy has embarrassed friends and foes: Pro-western dictatorial leaders feel abandoned by the U.S., while their opponents are resentful the detested Americans have stolen their arguments.

With Ms. Rice in the Middle East, Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmad Abul Ghait, this week sounded a warning that U.S. "interference" risked "wreaking havoc."

"We want to be friends, but keep your distance," he said.

Muhammad Mursi, a member of the banned Muslim Brotherhood elected to Egypt's parliament as an "independent," said, "Bush is not serious about democracy. His deeds go against his words. Where is the freedom in Iraq? There is bloodshed everywhere and he started it."

Wave of democracy leaves Mideast 'unrecognizable': The U.S. might not like the results of the elections it proudly takes credit for, writes Anton La Guardia.

In many countries, the pressure for change has come about not so much as a result of U.S. efforts, but because of internal factors. In the Palestinian territories, the death of Yasser Arafat created a breathing space in the four-year-old conflict with Israel.

In Lebanon, the murder of former prime minister Rafik Hariri caused such fury that Syrian forces were forced to leave.

In Iraq, Shia spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani forced the U.S. into early elections.

The outcome of the new political freedom is still unclear.

In Lebanon, the anti-Syrian opposition has split, and the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, greatly depends on Israel agreeing to withdraw from the West Bank. In Egypt, the electoral rules have been drawn up to exclude the Muslim Brotherhood.

In contrast, Iran's controlled elections are designed to keep out opponents of the clergy's rule, and the reform process is in reverse. Results won't be announced until today, but it is doubtful any candidate will gain 50-per-cent support, meaning a runoff between the top two candidates will be needed.

The U.S. policy of promoting democracy has been far from consistent as it seeks to reconcile the theory of the "forward strategy of freedom" with the reality of the "global war on terrorism."

In Egypt, for instance, the U.S. demanded the release of Ayman Nour, the jailed leader of a small liberal party accused of tax fraud, while keeping silent on the recent rounding-up of hundreds of Brotherhood members.

Campaigners accused the U.S. of sending suspected Islamic militants back to Egypt where they face likely torture and detention.

The main unanswered question in the quest for democracy is: What happens if freedom brings U.S. enemies to power?

In Lebanon and the Israeli occupied territories, violent groups such as **Hezbollah** and Hamas used elections to gain political influence.

In a region where most states have suppressed rivals, the mosque has provided the main refuge. Islamic groups, mostly hostile to the U.S., are now the most powerful opposition to existing regimes.

Even liberal Muslims worry that an Islamic victory will mean the end of democracy.

Mr. Nour explained the contradictions facing Mr. Bush.

"The public support of America has not been helpful, and the Egyptian government is using it against me.

"It may have shortened the time I spent in jail. But if you come to my constituency, you will see banners accusing me of being an American spy."

Load-Date: June 18, 2005

From Iraq, democracy creeps forward

The International Herald Tribune

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 736 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

'Democratic creep' is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny that America helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

The New York Times

In Iraq, America mourns its losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam Hussein did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after America turns over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps television sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now more than 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. America is training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," one observer says.

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From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution.

From Iraq , democracy creeps forward

Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen President Bashar Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, and probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

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*

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: March 23, 2004

LIBERALS MUST SEE THAT MORE THAN OIL IS AT STAKE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 23, 2003 Thursday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL ; Thomas C. Friedman Column; Pg. B7

Length: 702 words

Byline: Thomas C. Friedman Copyright New York Times News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

WHY IRAQ? PART I * As the decision on Iraq approaches, I, like so many Americans, have had to ask myself: What do you really think? Today I explain why I think liberals under-appreciate the value of removing Saddam Hussein. Next week, I will explain why conservatives under-appreciate the risks of doing so -- and how we should balance the two.

What liberals fail to recognize is that regime change in Iraq is not some distraction from the war on al-Qaida. That is a bogus argument. And simply because oil is also at stake in Iraq doesn't make it illegitimate. Some things are right to do, even if Big Oil benefits.

Although President George W. Bush has cast the war in Iraq as being about disarmament -- and that is legitimate -- disarmament is not the most important prize there. Regime change is the prize. Regime transformation in Iraq could make a valuable contribution to the war on terrorism, whether Saddam is ousted or enticed into exile.

Why? Because what really threatens open, Western, liberal societies today is not Saddam and his weapons, per se. He is a twisted dictator who is detestable through conventional means. Because Saddam loves life more than he hates us. What threatens Western societies today are the undeterrables -- the boys who did 9-11, who hate us more than they love life. It's these human missiles of mass destruction that could destroy our open society.

So the question is: What is the cement mixer that is churning out these undeterrables -- these angry, humiliated and often unemployed Muslim youth? That cement mixer is a collection of faltering Arab states, which, as the U.N.'s Arab Human Development Report noted, have fallen so far behind the world that their combined gross domestic product does not equal that of Spain. The reason they have fallen behind can be traced to their lack of three things: freedom, modern education and women's empowerment.

If we don't help transform these Arab states -- which also are experiencing population explosions -- to create better governance, to build more open and productive economies, to empower their women and to develop responsible news media that won't blame all their ills on others, we never will begin to see the political, educational and religious reforms they need to shrink their output of undeterrables.

We have partners. There is a part of every young Arab today that recoils at the idea of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, because of its colonial overtones. But there is a part of many young Arabs today that prays the United States will oust not only Saddam, but also all other Arab leaders.

LIBERALS MUST SEE THAT MORE THAN OIL IS AT STAKE

It is not unreasonable to believe that if the United States removed Saddam and helped Iraqis build a more accountable, progressive and democratizing regime, it would have a transforming effect on the entire Arab world -- a region desperately in need of a progressive model that works.

And liberals need to take heed. Just by mobilizing for war against Iraq, the United States has sent this region a powerful message: We will not leave you alone anymore to play with matches, because the last time you did, we got burned. Just the threat of a U.S. attack has already prompted Hezbollah to be on its best behavior in Lebanon. And it has spurred Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to introduce a proposal for an "Arab Charter" of political and economic reform.

Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, says: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." It is true of countries as well. Until the Arab peoples are given a real ownership stake in their countries -- a real voice in how they are run -- they will never wash them, never improve them as they should.

The Arab world has been digging itself into a hole for a long time. If our generation simply helps it stop digging, possibly our grandchildren and its own will reap the benefits. But if we don't help the Arabs turn around now, they just may get where they're going -- a dead end where they will produce more and more undeterables.

This is something that liberals should care about -- because liberating the captive peoples of the Mideast is a virtue in itself and because, in today's globalized world, if you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it will visit you.

Notes

COMMENTARY; A FORUM FOR OTHER VOICES, IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Load-Date: January 24, 2003

End of Document

Creeping Democracy

The New York Times

March 22, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 23

Length: 726 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

"Democratic creep" is not a derogation of a liberal candidate. On the contrary, it is the process -- now well under way -- by which free nations will win the world war on terror.

In Afghanistan, once a hotbed of Qaeda training and Taliban tyranny, nobody can deny we helped bring forth the beginnings of democratic government. Afghans, including newly liberated women, are helping track down fugitive killers.

In Iraq, we mourn our losses this past year, which now approach 2 percent of U.S. casualties in the Korean conflict. Many Iraqis died, too, but literally tens of thousands are alive today because Saddam did not have the power to torture and execute them -- as mass graves tell us he did every year of his savage misrule.

Nobody can be certain that Iraq will remain whole and free after we turn over sovereignty on June 30. But prospects look far better than predicted by defeatists who claimed a year ago that political freedom had no chance of taking root in hostile Arab soil.

Free electricity keeps TV sets and air-conditioners humming, oil is flowing, schools and businesses have come to life. Unemployment, now over 30 percent, will surely drop as the \$18 billion appropriated by the U.S. Congress -- part of the \$87 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan -- begins to flow heavily next month into reconstruction by Iraqi workers. (The W.P.A. lives.)

We are training a civilian defense corps, twice the size of a joint Shiite-Sunni-Kurdish army, to take over free Iraq's battle against the Ansar-Qaeda terrorists and Baathist diehards. With the transfer of political power to a transitional Iraqi government, public fury at the mortar and rocket attacks on "soft target" civilians will be a nationalizing, not a destabilizing, force -- directed not at occupiers but against the terrorist invaders.

Next year, a trio of local politicians will emerge to lead the country. "Three John Edwardses are out there awaiting their chance," says one observer.

Creeping Democracy

Optimistic? In the grand design to uproot the causes of the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, defeat is no option. We have to believe in the popular success of a combination of democracy and prosperity. In this generation, the world has seen the power of the human desire for freedom.

From Kuwait to Qatar, the coalition's overthrow of Saddam has been a political tonic. Libya's dictator is making weaponry concessions lest his economy be wrecked and he be ousted. Repressive Iran is ripening for revolution. Egypt's boss and Saudi Arabia's princes are nervous because an arc of democracy bids fair to extend from Turkey through Iraq to Israel, with literate, enterprising populations blazing a path to liberating prosperity in the greater Middle East.

Syria's sullen Bashar al-Assad is feeling the heat. He benefited most from Saddam's corruption, probably provided a hiding place for Iraqi weapons and a route of entry into Iraq for Qaeda killers. His troops illegally occupy Lebanon; he supports Hezbollah and Hamas terrorists in rocket attacks and suicide bombings. His so-called intelligence sharing has been singularly unproductive.

A million and a half Kurds live in Syria, despised by the rulers in Damascus. After Syrian Kurds saw the blessings of freedom flow to their ethnic comrades in Iraq, some were emboldened to respond to Arab taunting at a soccer game. Bashar's goons, remembering his father's bloody " Hamas rules," shot a score of the unarmed protesters as a warning to the quarter-million Kurds the dictator keeps stateless.

Congress, more hawkish than President Bush on this state sponsor of terror, passed the Syria Accountability Act four months ago with large majorities; this week, he is expected to put some of its authorized economic squeeze on Bashar. He should consider that Step One.

This unified American message -- substantial largess for free Iraq contrasted with the start of serious sanctions for despotic Syria -- will not be lost on the Arab League meeting in Tunisia.

Success of democracy in Iraq is the key to democratic reform throughout the greater Middle East. When that reform dawns in Ramallah, there can be an independent, contiguous Palestine. When creeping democracy gradually brings a better life to people of the region, the basis for hatred and terror will erode and the suicide bomber will pass from the scene.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: March 22, 2004

AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS BANNED

The Independent (London)

January 29, 2005, Saturday

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Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 31

Length: 702 words

Byline: NICK MEO IN JALALABAD

Highlight: Traders haggling at an opium bazaar in Afghanistan Thorne Anderson/ Corbis Sygma

Body

UNTIL A few months ago Afghanistan's biggest opium bazaar was on the outskirts of a ramshackle village called Ghani Khel, on a lush plain near the Khyber Pass backed by the snow-covered Tora Bora mountains.

Trade in the grey-brown cakes took place in a row of rickety wooden huts behind the main street. Farmers flocked there with the precious harvest, hard and grey on the outside, gooey and black in the middle, and traders came from Pakistan, Iran or Turkey to find the best-quality source.

Now opium is banned, the farmers have been forced to plant wheat, and Ghani Khel is a boom town that has gone bust. Opium was the only reason for outsiders to ever come here. The bazaar is a 15-minute bumpy drive from the main road, halfway between the eastern city of Jalalabad and the Pakistan border, in the middle of what were until recently Afghanistan's richest poppy fields. Every spring for the past three years a sea of beautiful white and purple blooms has covered Nangarhar province, even though growing it was technically illegal. The authorities also turned a blind eye to the throngs of turbaned farmers who headed to the bazaar to haggle with the Arthur Daleys of Afghanistan's opium world, men enriched by years of bumper crops.

A handful of really big players have invested their illicit fortunes in Dubai or Tajikistan, potential bolt-holes if the government ever gets serious about arresting them. Middlemen have built ugly villas in Jalalabad. The farmers have rebuilt villages destroyed in the war, invested in shiny new tractors, or blown the profits on extravagant weddings where tracer fire lights up the sky.

This year, however, the party is over.

Furtive, scowling characters still lurk around the bazaar, and it doesn't take long for shady youths to offer opium at an inflated price - £70 for a 200g lump the size of a small orange, looking like a dried, misshapen cowpat.

But pickings are lean. Ghani Khel looks today more like a fly-blown town from a spaghetti western than the Afghan version of Wall Street. The grim mood of the town's residents matched its depressed appearance, a far cry from the get-rich-quick atmosphere of the past.

"I have 16 members of my family to support and the government will not let me grow poppy," said **Hezbollah**, who shook with anger as he brandished a sheaf of prescriptions for medicines that he could not afford to buy. "The

AFGHAN OPIUM TOWN HITS HARD TIMES AFTER DRUGS BAZAAR IS BANNED

Russians destroyed our homes, opium is the only crop we can sell. Without it we will have to head back to the refugee camps in Pakistan where we lived for years."

Another man blamed the American military. "The police would not stop drugs if they were not told to by the Americans," he said. "What can we farmers do against men with guns? And the Americans will bomb us if we resist."

Women in filthy burkhas sit in the dust staring into the distance. Shops are reduced to trading potatoes or cheap Chinese-made cooking utensils. An unemployed army of farmers and traders wander the dusty main street, grousing to anyone who will listen about how the government's ban has put them out of business.

The man chiefly held responsible for their plight is the warlord-turned- police chief Hazrat Ali. Mr Ali was hired by the American military in 2001 to fight the battle of Tora Bora. Mr Ali's family was controversial before that - it has prospered for years in one of Afghanistan's main opium producing areas.

But Western diplomats in Kabul are quietly delighted that the poppy- growing ban has been enforced, the first time anyone has succeeded in stopping opium cultivation since the Taliban managed it, and the first big success for President Hamid Karzai's government.

Mr Ali believes he has brought about a 98 per cent reduction in the province of Nangarhar. Western sources estimate the figure as closer to 70 or 80 per cent, still astounding after the figures last year showed the biggest ever area under poppy cultivation.

If the grip of the drugs industry is to be loosened, consolidating the success is vital. The second-biggest poppy growing province of Helmand in the south has seen only a modest reduction in planting while Badakshan in the north, the third big opium province, is thought to have seen business as usual.

Load-Date: January 29, 2005

**THE GREATER WAR;
IRAQ IS A STEPPINGSTONE, NOT A FINAL STOP**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 23, 2003 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 705 words

Body

Many --including me -- have called what has begun in Iraq a "war." But this is inaccurate, and the maldescription may cause some to fail to understand what's going on, what's at stake and what's likely to happen next.

The United States is at war. We weren't aware we were at war until Sept. 11, 2001, but the war began well before then. Muslim extremists attacked Army Rangers in Somalia in 1993; the Khobar Towers barracks in Saudi Arabia in 1996; our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998; the USS Cole in the port of Aden in 2000 -- but we didn't connect the dots. It took a horrible slaughter on our own soil before we paid attention to the gathering danger.

We are at war with Islamic extremists who hate us because we are rich and powerful, because we don't enslave women or murder Jews. We are guilty of no provocation save our mere existence. So this is not a conflict which can be resolved by appeasement or negotiation. We must destroy them, or they will destroy us.

These Islamic extremists are found both in terror groups -- principally, but by no means exclusively al-Qaida -- and in terror-supporting states. There is a symbiotic relationship between the two.

Al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, etc. can exist without state support. But they cannot be very dangerous without it. By themselves, the terror groups can kill dozens, perhaps hundreds. But with the help of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, they could kill tens of thousands.

To win World War II, we had to beat both Germany and Japan, and we had to fight both simultaneously. To win the war on terror, we have to fight both the terror groups and the terror-supporting states, and we have to fight them both at once.

Major wars are a series of campaigns, each of them conducted to gain a vital steppingstone on the road to victory, but none of them sufficient by themselves to achieve victory. Afghanistan was a campaign in the war on terror, the ongoing pursuit of al-Qaida another, Iraq a third. More will follow.

Some campaigns are more important than others. To use a WWII analogy, the Afghan campaign was Guadalcanal or New Guinea -- America fighting back, blunting the enemy's offensive, giving us the momentum. Iraq, I think, will be comparable to the liberation of the Philippines -- a body blow to the enemy, one that virtually guarantees his ultimate defeat.

THE GREATER WAR; IRAQ IS A STEPPINGSTONE, NOT A FINAL STOP

The disarmament of Iraq and the liberation of its people are terrific ends in themselves. But Iraq is more properly viewed as just another steppingstone.

Iraq is important for three reasons:

First, by removing Saddam, we remove not merely a serious threat to Iraq's neighbors and the world's oil supply, the terror network loses a major source of sanctuary, funding and weapons. I suspect ties between al-Qaida and Iraqi intelligence are much greater than most of us realize, but there is no point in arguing about it. We'll find out soon enough.

Second, if a reasonably democratic, reasonably pro-Western government can take hold in Iraq, it would be a major step toward draining the poisonous swamps in which terrorist "fish" swim. The more autocratic a Muslim state is, the more likely it is to breed and harbor Muslim extremists. There are no democracies in the Arab world. But if democracy takes hold in Iraq, other nations will have to follow. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar already are making liberalizing noises.

Third, if there is a major U.S. military presence in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Iran will be surrounded. Iran is the first revolutionary terror state, responsible for the attack on the Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983, and -- intelligence officials think -- for the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia in 1996. And Iran may be the most dangerous of the terror states. It has more than double the population of Iraq, nearly as much oil and is only a year or so away from possessing nuclear weapons.

We may not need to use military force to change Iran. The presence of democracies to the east and west may inspire the Iranian people to do the job themselves. But we will not be safe until there is regime change in Iran as well as in Iraq.

The liberation of Iraq will be neither the beginning nor the end of the war on terror. But it could mark the beginning of the end.

Notes

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Load-Date: March 25, 2003

'SPINNING INTO CONTROL';
U.S.-LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL
COUNTRIES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

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Length: 732 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

1. In Libya, Col. Gadhafi took one look at our army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible U.N. inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, **female**-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of **Hezbollah** and Hamas terrorism -- the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of

'SPINNING INTO CONTROL'; U.S. -LED MILITARY ACTION IS PAYING DIVIDENDS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES

a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But we did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; we are helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. Our new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The Washington Post columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to our decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what we have been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

Notes

William Safire is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times (safire@nytimes.com).

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End of Document

Powell heads home with peace hopes collapsing

The Times (London)

April 17, 2002, Wednesday

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Section: Overseas news

Length: 769 words

Byline: Richard Beeston Diplomatic Editor

Body

Colin Powell's peace mission to the Middle East was in tatters last night as fighting raged in the West Bank and the US Secretary of State prepared to return home with the region still ablaze.

A day after Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, promised to begin pulling his forces out of Palestinian cities, there was little sign that the 19-day Israeli operation "Defensive Shield" was any nearer completion. General Powell now faces the prospect of returning to Washington with none of his main peacemaking objectives achieved and the real risk that the conflict could continue or even spread.

There was heavy fighting last night in Bethlehem around the Church of the Nativity, where 200 people, including Roman Catholic clerics and Palestinian gunmen, are approaching their third week under siege.

Muhammad al-Madani, the Governor of Bethlehem and one of those trapped inside, said that fierce shooting began when Israeli troops tried to storm the church. "They tried to get in, but they could not," he said. "There are no injuries, thank God."

Elsewhere Israeli troops showed no signs of ending their campaign to root out armed Palestinian groups, which has so far netted 4,250 suspects. The Israelis have so many prisoners that they have reopened Ketziot desert prison camp, which was last used in the first intifada a decade ago.

The numbers are likely to rise with further arrests reported yesterday during a raid by Israeli forces into Tulkarem, a town that they had vacated a few days ago. There were also reports of fresh Palestinian casualties at a refugee camp in Nablus and further fighting in Jenin.

Israeli forces also clamped down on areas of Arab east Jerusalem because of concerns of a possible attack today, which marks Israel's 54th anniversary since independence from Britain. The Israelis are concerned about reprisal attacks after the arrest on Monday of Marwan Barghouti, leader of the mainstream Fatah movement in the West Bank, who has been accused of organising the recent suicide bombings. "He will be brought before an Israeli court for the murder of hundreds of Israeli babies children, women," Mr Sharon said.

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, said that Mr Sharon would pay a high price for the capture. In a statement released in Beirut, the group said: "You have made yourselves legitimate targets to be killed and assassinated."

The threats, killings and arrests seemed to ignore General Powell's efforts to halt the fighting and persuade the parties to return to the negotiating table.

Powell heads home with peace hopes collapsing

Yesterday the American envoy said that he was making progress, but there was no evidence that any of the key players was any more willing to compromise today than ten days ago when General Powell arrived in the region.

Today he returns home after a final meeting with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and a stopover in Cairo to see President Mubarak.

The American envoy came to the region with three main aims. First, he wanted Israel to withdraw its forces from the West Bank. Secondly, he wanted the Palestinians to respect a ceasefire and halt suicide bomb attacks.

Finally, he wanted a commitment from Arab states, particularly Lebanon and Syria, that they would halt cross-border attacks into Israel and stop support for militant Islamic groups regarded by Washington as terrorist organisations. If all those were achieved, he even floated the idea of convening an international peace conference.

On all three counts, General Powell has failed. The Israelis still have large forces committed to the West Bank and reserve the right to go back in at any time. Major-General Aharon Zeevi, the head of military Intelligence, said yesterday that even if troops withdrew they could go back into Palestinian areas at any time.

Despite various plans being discussed, there is no hope of a real ceasefire while Israeli and Palestinian forces are still locked in battles across the West Bank.

The mood in the Arab world is probably as bad if not worse than when General Powell set foot in the region. Lebanon and Syria have vowed to continue support for Hezbollah, the militant Islamic group attacking Israeli military positions.

Even Saudi Arabia, once regarded as America's closest Arab ally, has said publicly that suicide attacks against Israel are a legitimate form of resistance.

The Bush Administration agreed last night to let the Palestine Liberation Organisation maintain offices in Washington, and authorised humanitarian and trade assistance for the Palestinian people for the next six months. But it said future US aid would depend on the PLO cracking down on terrorism.

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

6 Palestinians killed as Israel abandons truce: Cabinet approves 'necessary measures' to defend country

The Ottawa Citizen

October 4, 2001 Thursday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 735 words

Byline: Christopher Walker

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

U.S. attempts to cool the Arab-Israeli conflict suffered a severe blow yesterday when Israeli forces abandoned recent restraint and killed at least six Palestinians in a Palestinian-ruled area of the Gaza Strip.

The deaths came during an armoured incursion, backed by a naval blockade, that was part of Israel's no-holds-barred response to Tuesday night's Hamas raid on the Gaza Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai that left two young Israelis dead and 15, including two children, wounded.

The two gunmen were shot dead by Israeli special forces. Hamas issued a triumphant video made by the men before the attack in which they boasted about their action and described it as part of a religious struggle by oppressed Muslims.

The Times of London

Abdallah Shaban, one of the dead attackers, said to the camera: "I am the son of a people who are killed and massacred and the son of a religion that imposes jihad and the son of a nation that rejects submission to occupation.

"Our act is for God's sake and God knows it will please all Palestinians because our people have been deeply wounded in Deir Yassin, Qibya, Kufr Qassem, Sabra and Shatila." These were references to the sites of massacres of Palestinians.

Both of the gunmen -- who must have known that they had no chance of surviving their mission -- came from Jabalya, one of Gaza's most squalid refugee camps and one of the main breeding grounds of Islamic extremism in the region.

The release of the video came only hours after Israel's security cabinet decided to lift recent restraints imposed on its military under the terms of last week's truce agreed with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Ministers authorized "all necessary measures to defend Israel."

The decision, which ministers said would involve a return to the controversial policy of targeted killings, which are described by Palestinians as "legalized assassinations," could not have come at a worse time for Washington.

6 Palestinians killed as Israel abandons truce: Cabinet approves 'necessary measures' to defend country

U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has just begun a tour of Arab states to secure their support for President George W. Bush's anti-terror coalition.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon indicated in a hard-hitting speech there were limits to Israel's willingness to compromise. "Israel will not pay with its citizens' lives in order to appease the Arab states so that they will join the international coalition against terror," he said.

He urged the world to declare Hamas, Islamic Jihad (which planted a car bomb in Jerusalem on Monday), and Hezbollah, terrorist organizations.

Israeli cabinet secretary Gideon Saar said: "The principle is very simple. We prefer the Palestinian Authority (led by Mr Arafat) to prevent terrorism from its territory, but if it does not do it, our security forces will."

The speed and severity with which Israeli forces retaliated for the raid on Alei Sinai took diplomats by surprise. Many expected a milder response in light of the demands being made by the U.S.

Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into territory close to the settlement in the north of the occupied Gaza strip shortly after 5 a.m. A Palestinian security source said the Israeli forces had destroyed at least 10 police posts.

Palestinian officials said an Israeli tank shell killed at least five Palestinians, four of them police officers, inside a security post.

During heavy shooting in the Palestinian village of Beit Lahia, another Palestinian was killed and seven injured, three seriously.

Dozens of residents of the rundown village of cinderblock homes and garbage-strewn streets fled in panic. "I had to take my children out of the house, carrying two at a time," said Mahmoud Abu Khalil, 40, a Palestinian father of 10. "We ran farther inside the village. The tank shells and bullets never stopped."

Tensions rose further late yesterday when Palestinian gunmen fired into a crowd of Jewish worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank city of Hebron. The worshippers were celebrating Sukkoth, or the Feast of the Tabernacles. Two women were injured, one seriously.

Security forces are on alert for the possibility of renewed violence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem today.

The extremist Jewish group, Temple Mount Faithful, plans to attempt to drive symbolic "corner stones" for a third temple to a parking lot outside the walls of the old city. Israeli police have not said if they will allow the action.

Load-Date: October 4, 2001

Bush Says Syria Has Chemical Arms

New York Sun (Archive)

April 14, 2003 Monday

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Section: FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 775 words

Byline: By BENNY AVNI, Special to the Sun

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS

Body

President Bush yesterday accused Syria of having chemical weapons and warned it against trying to help the remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Even as the president spoke with reporters on his return from Camp David, France publicly displayed its solidarity with Syria - its former colony and its last remaining Ba'athist ally.

"We believe there are chemical weapons in Syria," Mr. Bush told reporters in the Rose Garden in a move seemingly calculated to ratchet up the rhetorical pressure on Iraq's neighbor.

This was the first time such an accusation was raised by anyone in the administration. It also represented a clear escalation in the barrage of almost daily warnings from Washington directed at Damascus.

Mr. Bush however, was careful not to threaten military action. "They just need to cooperate," Mr. Bush said. "We expect cooperation, and I'm hopeful we'll receive cooperation," he added.

Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld refused to specify how the administration would respond if Saddam turns up in Damascus. But appearing on CBS, he said that in such a case, "Syria would have made an even bigger mistake." American officials continued to accuse Damascus of harboring remnants of Saddam's regime, including two **female** scientists implicated in biological warfare: Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, known as "Mrs. Anthrax," and Rihab Taha, nicknamed "Dr. Germs" and considered the highest ranked **female** Iraqi Ba'ath member. The last visible official of the regime, United Nations ambassador Mohammad Aldouri, was also reportedly on his way to Damascus after leaving New York over the weekend.

Syria sought to defuse the growing tension. Its foreign ministry spokeswoman, Buthayna Shaaban, told Al-Jazeera television Syria's borders with Iraq are closed and reiterated that none of the Iraqi leaders had asked to come to Syria.

"As you know, Syria's history with the Iraqi regime have never been cordial, but we have always been keen about the Iraqi people," she said.

The increasingly sharp tone in Washington toward Syria prompted criticism from French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, on a tour of Arab capitals this weekend. His most prominent stop was Damascus, where he

Bush Says Syria Has Chemical Arms

visited President Bashar Assad on Saturday. In a demonstration of solidarity with the Syrian regime, Mr. De Villepin shared a press conference with Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara.

He did not go so far as to endorse Syrian denials of harboring escaped Iraqi leaders and a cache of weapons of mass destruction smuggled from Iraq, but his defense of the Ba'athist leaders in Damascus sounded very much like his earlier defense of Saddam's regime.

Rather than mending fences with Washington in the post-war environment, France thus signaled a continuation of its policy of confrontation with the sole world superpower.

American officials said over the weekend that they captured numerous Arab nationals, including many Syrians, fighting in Iraq. General Tommy Franks said in television appearances that many of them were recruited in Damascus and went to Iraq through Syria.

Syria also continues to assist Hezbollah, an organization based in Syrian-controlled Lebanon, which was implicated in numerous terrorist acts in Israel and around the world, including against American targets.

"He is acting very irresponsibly," Dore Gold, an Israeli government adviser, told the Sun, referring to President Assad. "I'm not sure he knows what he is doing."

But for Mr. de Villepin - who also included stops in Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia in his trip - Syria was unfairly criticized. He warned of the consequences of confrontation with Syria.

"The time is not correct. The time is to work together," Mr. de Villepin said in Beirut, referring to the critics in Washington. "The time is for consultation, for dialogue."

He offered instead five steps for solving the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, which he claimed were consistent with the so-called "road map," a plan endorsed by a quartet consisting of Washington, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

Mr. de Villepin, however, seemed to go further than the quartet, offering an international conference, hosted of course by France, that would conclude the "peace of the brave" - a term favored by Mr. Arafat.

Jerusalem is strongly opposed to any significant international - other than American - involvement in the Palestinian track.

"Who needs the involvement of Europe, Russia and the U.N. after they failed so miserably on the eve of the war?" Mr. Gold said. These, especially France, are considered in Jerusalem too friendly to Arab states, and their defense of Iraq in the Security Council confirmed that notions to many in Israel.

Load-Date: April 21, 2004

**The U.S. and Iran together again?;
Reconcilable differences**

The International Herald Tribune

May 9, 2003 Friday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 753 words

Byline: Stanley A. Weiss

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

If governments placed ads in the personal columns, Washington's would read something like this:

"Sole global superpower seeks long-term relationship with emerging Middle East democracy. Must have leaders chosen by popular vote, well-educated civil society with independent press, entrepreneurial spirit, and respect for women. Tired of jihad? Looking for a change? Let's get together."

Think Washington is setting its standards too high? Think again. In fact, the perfect match may be an old flame that went cold the Islamic Republic of Iran.

International Herald Tribune

Competition between Tehran and Washington for influence in Iraq is the latest round in a quarter-century-old feud since their bitter divorce following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. It is a custody battle for the loyalty of Iraq's 60 percent Shiite Muslim majority, which will be key to the future of Iraq and the region.

At the same time, both governments are confirming the other's worst fears. Despite Iran's vast oil and natural gas reserves, Tehran pushes ahead with its controversial nuclear program, which it claims is for "energy purposes." Despite Washington's war on terrorism, the U.S. military in Iraq signs a cease-fire agreement with the People's Mujahidin, a terrorist group opposed to the Tehran regime.

But Iran and the United States have too much at stake to let animosity trump their mutual interests.

Iranians once loved America for its anti-colonial stance and for helping to expel Soviet forces after World War II. Americans loved Iran for its ancient heritage and newfound oil.

But the love story ended badly. Iranians I met during a visit several years ago still obsessed about the CIA's role in the 1953 coup. Americans are still haunted by the 1979-81 hostage nightmare at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In Iranian eyes, the United States has been the patron of their worst oppressors. In addition to bankrolling the shah, Washington supported Saddam Hussein in his eight-year war against Shiite Iran. From Iraq to Saudi Arabia to Bahrain to Pakistan, the United States has historically backed Sunni Muslim regimes that often treat their own Shiite populations as second-class citizens.

The U.S. and Iran together again?; Reconcilable differences

In American eyes, Shiites are synonymous with terrorism. Iran's revolution inflicted a decade of hostage-taking, hijackings and suicide bombings. Before the Sept. 11 attacks, more Americans were killed by Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed radical Shiites based in Lebanon, than by any other terrorist group.

But now, both sides have started reaching out. Tehran and Washington quietly cooperated to create a new Afghan government. Tehran maintained an "active neutrality" during the war against Saddam. But will this flirting lead to something serious?

Both nations are better off together. Iran's crippled economy needs American investment now barred by U.S. sanctions. The United States needs Iran, strategically located as a gateway to the world's oil reserves. Among Washington and Tehran's common interests is an Iraq free of weapons of mass destruction and a Middle East free of the Sunni-dominated Al Qaeda.

The matchmaker may be Hashemi Rafsanjani, the pragmatic former Iranian president who is now chairman of the powerful Expediency Council, which resolves disputes between the competing factions and branches of government. "One solution," to relations with the U.S., he said last month, "is to hold a referendum to see what society says," knowing full well that polls show a vast majority of Iranians favor ties and trade with America.

Blocking the way is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose Islamic dictatorship is fighting to preserve its tenuous grip on power. But Khamenei and his fellow hard-line mullahs would be dealt a potentially fatal blow if Washington lifted the sanctions that give them a scapegoat for their own domestic failures. That is why the hard-liners consistently sabotage any talk of an American-Iranian rapprochement.

As President George W. Bush has recognized, "the people of Iran want the same freedoms, human rights and opportunities as people around the world." He should make the first move.

Don't expect wedding bells any time soon. But when the Islamic pragmatists see that Washington is serious about reconciliation, it might help convince them to dump the ideologues and get back together with an old American friend.

*

The writer is chairman of Business Executives for National Security, a nonpartisan organization based in Washington. This is a personal comment.

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Load-Date: May 9, 2003

Student Protests in Tehran Become Nightly Fights for Freedom

The New York Times
June 14, 2003 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 737 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

Dateline: TEHRAN, Saturday, June 14

Body

A large swath of central Tehran turned into a combat zone overnight with running battles between demonstrators denouncing Iran's Islamic government and vigilantes and riot police officers determined to drive them off the streets.

What started as a small student march against the issue of university privatization on Tuesday has snowballed into violent nightly protests by demonstrators from across the social spectrum demanding more social, economic and political freedom.

The protests on Friday night were the largest and most violent to date, erupting on the campus of Shaheed Beheshti University in northern Tehran and clogging the two major highways leading to the dormitories of Tehran University.

"This is civil disobedience," said a 45-year-old man beside his car on Chamron Highway, where demonstrators ignited tires and even trees along the road. "We are standing up against them. We are resisting and protesting against the regime."

The riot police and other troops were deployed all day around Tehran University to prevent crowds gathering, while the city's police chief, Ali Talai, told students his men were there to prevent "infiltrators" from reaching the campus, reported Iran's Student News Agency.

The agency said, however, that vigilantes and riot police officers attacked four dormitories early today, breaking doors and windows and severely beating at least one male. It also reported the arrests of five female students.

The Baseej, a shadowy paramilitary group, sometimes also known as Ansar Hezbollah, appeared around the city in groups of 150 to 200, some on motorbikes and some in pickups. They are believed to be under the control of the country's supreme clerical leader, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, who warned a day earlier that the government would respond harshly to student protests.

The vigilantes beat demonstrators with wooden batons and rubber truncheons, sometimes hauling them out of their cars to do it. They raced along sidewalks on their motorbikes, striking even women and demanding that everyone return home.

Student Protests in Tehran Become Nightly Fights for Freedom

Some guarded major intersections carrying Kalashnikov rifles, and one eyewitness said he had seen a demonstrator shot in the foot or lower leg. Another said he had seen a demonstrator slashed across the face with a razor blade. The number of those injured or arrested could not be immediately determined.

Officially, Iran all but ignored the events. Former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who led Friday Prayers, concentrated on what he called the failure of United States efforts in Afghanistan, Iraq and in negotiating peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

In recent months, relations with the United States have soured, and the government is worried about Washington's intentions. The demonstrators were repeatedly accused of acting at the behest of the Americans.

In his few remarks on the riots, Mr. Rafsanjani said people should not pay attention to satellite television -- watched illegally by most middle-class Iranians. Persian-language opposition television stations operating from California, portraying the demonstrations as a reversal of the 1979 Islamic revolution, have been calling on Iranians to pour into the streets.

"I advise them to be careful not to fall in the well that the Americans have dug," Mr. Rafsanjani said of the demonstrators at Friday Prayers. "Be careful not to be trapped by the evil television networks that Americans have established."

Iran's own state-run television news mentioned bloodshed in the West Bank and Gaza and demonstrations by Iraqis against the United States' occupation, but nothing about the violence in their capital.

By 3 a.m., many of the streets around Tehran University were filled with broken glass and fragments of bricks and flower pots the demonstrators and vigilantes had hurled at one another.

The vigilantes in their trucks and on motorcycles staged victory laps around the campus, drumming on their trucks with their truncheons.

Oddly, the night had begun almost in a carnival atmosphere. As the sun set and a full moon rose, many families jumped in their cars to go look at the gathering riot police and students just beginning to chant anti-government slogans.

As the first bonfires were lit and the traffic started to snarl, one driver yelled at a man who climbed out of his car and tried to direct traffic around a bonfire.

"Just be patient, we are trying to have a revolution," the man answered.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: June 14, 2003

'Spinning Into Control'

The New York Times

January 12, 2004 Monday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 730 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE; E-mail: , safire@nytimes.com

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is our pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of American action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

1. In Libya, Colonel Qaddafi took one look at our army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible U.N. inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, female-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under our NATO security umbrella and with some U.N. guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and Hamas terrorism -- Dictator Bashar al-Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasir Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

'Spinning Into Control'

5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Teheran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But we did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; we are helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the U.S. has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. Our new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

The columnist Jim Hoagland cautions that it is too early to proclaim that nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to our decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case that what we have been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 12, 2004

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POINT OF REFERENCE: U.S.-SYRIA HISTORY

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

April 15, 2003 Tuesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 4A; DIGEST

Length: 760 words

Series: WAR WITH IRAQ: THE DAILY BRIEFING; POINT OF REFERENCE

Body

Historically prickly, U.S.-Syrian relations had warmed in recent years as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union (a Syrian benefactor), its participation in the 1991 Gulf War coalition and its agreement to negotiate with Israel. Long a pivotal player in the Middle East - balancing ties between powerful Iran and Saudi Arabia and maintaining pressure on Israel by stationing thousands of troops in neighboring Lebanon - Syria's usefulness to the United States would diminish if a pro-American government took power next door in Iraq.

Some highlights of the ups and downs of U.S.-Syrian relations:

+ Relations with Israel. Syria's overarching goal has been the return of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau Israel captured in 1967 Mideast war. In 1991, President Hafez Assad agreed to participate in a U.S. sponsored Middle East peace conference and to engage in subsequent bilateral negotiations with Israel. However, the parties were unable to come to an agreement.

+ Relations with Lebanon. Since October 1976, when Syrian troops first entered neighboring Lebanon to intervene in that country's civil war, Syria has played a dominant role there. It killed the U.S.-sanctioned agreement between Israel and a rump Lebanese government after Israel's 1982 invasion. The United States and Syria consulted closely on the 1990 Taif Accord that ended the Lebanese civil war. A continuing point of dispute is Syria's failure to pull back its 30,000 troops.

+ Terrorism. Syria has been on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism since the list's inception in 1979 both for its failure to curtail **Hezbollah** guerrilla activities and its hosting of extreme Palestinian groups such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas either in Damascus or in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Syria argues that such groups should be considered part of legitimate resistance to Israeli occupation. However, Americans were kidnapped and killed by Lebanese radicals during the 1980s, and some analysts believe Syria was involved in the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks by Shiite militants, although others blame Iran. Over the years Damascus has been a haven for various guerrilla groups, including the Kurdish PKK, who were fighting for autonomy in Turkey (they were expelled in 1998), and radical groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the Abu Nidal organization.

However, the U.S. State Department adds that Syria has maintained its long-standing ban on attacks launched from its territory or against Western targets. It condemned the Sept. 11 attacks and has cooperated in the war on

POINT OF REFERENCE: U.S. - SYRIA HISTORY

terrorism by identifying elements of al-Qaida, including arresting several suspects and sharing intelligence on planned attacks.

+ Human rights. The United States says Syria continues to restrict fundamental rights - the right of citizens to change their government and organize political opposition; freedom of speech, religion, movement and press are restricted. There is prolonged detention without trial, fundamentally unfair trials in security courts, a corrupt judiciary, poor prison system and evidence of torture. Amnesty International estimates Syria holds hundreds of political prisoners.

However, President Bashar Assad ordered the release of 600 political prisoners in November 2000 and initiated some reforms. Overall, the secular Baath Party government supports freedom of religion and women's rights to a greater extent than many Mideast countries.

+ Arms proliferation. On June 25, 1998, the Clinton administration reportedly said Syria has an active chemical weapons program and armed missiles, combat aircraft and artillery projectiles with the nerve gas sarin. Israel believes Syria has developed a longer-range Scud missile, which Syria denies.

+ Relations with Iraq. In the 1990-91 Gulf War, Syria joined with the United States as a member of the coalition of forces opposing Iraq. Since 1997, Syrian-Iraqi relations improved. Iraq had become Syria's biggest trading partner. Iraq bought Syrian consumer goods and exported mostly oil, which it shipped illegally outside U.N. channels.

In November, Syria, the lone Arab member of the U.N. Security Council, backed U.N. Resolution 1441, which called on Iraq to account for or destroy its weapons of mass destruction. Since then, however, it has been adamantly opposed to any military action against Iraq.

Sources: "Syria: U.S. Relations and Bilateral Issues," by Alfred Prados, Congressional Research Service; Los Angeles Times; Associated Press; Times wires; Times files

Load-Date: April 15, 2003

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America is rolling back global terror

The International Herald Tribune

January 13, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 752 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is America's pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defense: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in antidemocratic hands.

The New York Times

1. In Libya, Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi took one look at America's Army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and -- in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion -- promises civilized behavior. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of U.S. military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

2. In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, female-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under America's NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

3. In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry -- and exporter of Hezbollah and Hamas terrorism -- the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to re-open negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

4. On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria -- on top of the overthrow of the despot

who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers -- further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an antiterrorist leader who can deliver statehood. 5. In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on

America is rolling back global terror

the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees that Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighboring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

6. In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses to everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the United States did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; America is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

7. In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate that the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defenses in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

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Load-Date: January 13, 2004

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Dark comedy from ashes of Lockerbie; New play from Des Dillon exposes 'farcical' trial of suspected PanAm 103 bombers

The Sunday Herald

November 3, 2002

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 676 words

Byline: By Juliette Garside

Body

The bombing of PanAm flight 103 and the subsequent dark farce of the Lockerbie trial 12 years later will be brought to life next year in a play by the writer Des Dillon.

Casting for the production, which is provisionally slated to premiere at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh next Spring, took place in London last week.

The play relies heavily for factual accuracy on a book by investigative journalists Ian Ferguson and John Ashton, called *Cover-up Of Convenience: The Hidden Scandal Of Lockerbie*, published last year.

Dillon, chronicler of Coatbridge and author of *Itchycooboo* and *Me And Ma Gal*, is known for exploring the seamier side of life while keeping his readers laughing, and he has injected a note of dark comedy into his version of events.

The play, provisionally entitled *Lockerbie 103*, is set in two principal times and places: a bed and breakfast in Lockerbie, on the night in December 1988 when a plane carrying 259 passengers and crew exploded, killing all on board and 11 people on the ground; and Camp Zeist in Holland over a decade later, during the trial of Libyans Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed al-Megrahi and Al Am in Khalifa Fhimah.

Dillon, who grew up with Ferguson in Coatbridge, has consulted his friend and Ashton throughout the project, asking them to read new drafts of the play as it went through revisions.

Cover-up Of Convenience examined the case against the Libyans, but also cast doubt on the official investigation of the tragedy, led by the tiny Dumfries and Galloway police force, and on the subsequent trial, by looking at the evidence against other suspects, most notably the Iranian government and a terrorist group based in Syria.

The conviction of Megrahi (his co-accused was acquitted) supposedly proved the official version and drew a line under the Lockerbie saga.

But among the evidence that some claim was suppressed at the trial were certain items reported to have been found in the wreckage: wads of US dollars, retail quantities of heroin, and a ***Hezbollah*** T-shirt. The authors put forward a theory of a high-level cover-up that involved the CIA.

Dark comedy from ashes of Lockerbie; New play from Des Dillon exposes 'farfical' trial of suspected PanAm 103 bombers

Ferguson said last week: "The play is inspired by the book. You could have gone two ways with this thing and been very sombre and serious about this subject. Des is trying to say there's elements of farce about this, which would appeal to those who are pretty sceptical about the trial and the investigation."

In contrast to the creative tidal wave which swamped this summer's Edinburgh Festival following the September 11 tragedy in the US, Lockerbie has not been the subject of endless plays and films.

According to Ferguson, former Channel 4 chief executive Michael Jackson took a personal interest in producing a film on the disaster, but the idea has not been followed-up by his successor Mark Thompson. Sean Connery's name was mentioned in connection with a script by the writers of *Auf Wiedersehen*, *Pet* and *The Commitments*, Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, but the film never saw the light of day.

A US production called *The Women Of Lockerbie* was staged earlier this year. It told of the local women who painstakingly repacked the cases of the passengers of PanAm flight 103, washing and pressing the clothes of the mostly American victims that they found scattered in the wreckage in the area, and sending them back to their grieving families.

Dillon's play will be directed by Ashton's sister Rachel, who runs the Ashton Theatre Group in Barrow-in-Furness.

Rehearsals begin in January and the play is provisionally scheduled to open at the Traverse in March next year. Ferguson and Ashton have been asked to speak at a question and answer session with the audience on the opening night.

Both Rachel Ashton and Dillon declined to comment on the production, but said they were hoping to announce it officially to the press before Christmas.

A spokeswoman for the Traverse Theatre said the venue was still finalising its programme for next year and could not confirm whether the production would be staged in the spring.

Graphic

Author Des Dillon's play is set in Lockerbie on the night of the bombing and at the infamous trial over a decade later
Photograph: Angela Catlin

Load-Date: November 5, 2002

**Freeing Iraqis is worth the trouble ;
War with Iraq?**

The International Herald Tribune

January 23, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 685 words

Byline: Thomas L. Friedman

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Today I explain why I think liberals under-appreciate the value of removing Saddam Hussein. Next time I will explain why conservatives under-appreciate the risks of doing so and how we should balance the two.

What liberals fail to recognize is that regime change in Iraq is not some distraction from the war on Al Qaeda. That is a bogus argument. And simply because oil is also at stake in Iraq doesn't make it illegitimate either. Some things are right to do, even if Big Oil benefits.

New York Times Service

Although President George W. Bush has cast the war in Iraq as being about disarmament and that is legitimate disarmament is not the most important prize there. Regime change is the prize. Regime transformation in Iraq could make a valuable contribution to the war on terrorism, whether Saddam is ousted or enticed into exile.

Because what really threatens open, Western, liberal societies today is not Saddam and his weapons per se. He is a twisted dictator who is deterrable through conventional means. What threatens Western societies today are the undeterrables the boys who did Sept. 11, who hate the West more than they love life. It's these human missiles of mass destruction that could really destroy open society.

So the question is: What is the cement mixer that is churning out these undeterrables these angry, humiliated and often unemployed Muslim youth? That cement mixer is a collection of faltering Arab states, which, as the United Nations' Arab Human Development Report noted, have fallen so far behind the world that their combined GDP does not equal that of Spain.

The reason they have fallen behind can be traced to their lack of three things: freedom, modern education and women's empowerment.

If we don't help transform these Arab states which are also experiencing population explosions to create better governance, to build more open and productive economies, to empower their women and to develop responsible news media that won't blame all their ills on others, we will never begin to see the political, educational and religious reforms that they need to shrink their output of undeterrables.

Freeing Iraqis is worth the trouble ; War with Iraq ?

America has partners. There is a part of every young Arab today that recoils at the idea of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, because of its colonial overtones. But there is a part of many young Arabs today that prays that the United States will oust not only Saddam but all other Arab leaders as well.

It is not unreasonable to believe that if the United States removed Saddam and helped Iraqis build not an overnight democracy but a more accountable, progressive and democratizing regime, it would have a transforming effect on the entire Arab world a region desperately in need of a progressive model that works.

And liberals need to take heed. Just by mobilizing for war against Iraq, the United States has sent this region a powerful message: We will not leave you alone anymore to play with matches, because the last time you did, we got burned.

Just the threat of a U.S. attack has already prompted Hezbollah to be on its best behavior in Lebanon. And it has spurred Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to introduce a proposal for an "Arab Charter" of political and economic reform.

Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, has said: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." It is true of countries as well. Until the Arab peoples are given a real ownership stake in their countries a real voice in how they are run they will never wash them, never improve them as they should.

And here is an American Indian saying: "If we don't turn around now, we just may get where we're going." The Arab world has been digging itself into a hole for a long time. If our generation simply helps it stop digging, possibly our grandchildren and its own will reap the benefits. But if we don't help the Arabs turn around now, they just may get where they're going a dead end where they will produce more and more undeterrables.

Liberating the captive peoples of the Mideast is a virtue in itself. And in today's globalized world, if you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it will visit you.

Load-Date: May 20, 2003

Broadcasting the War

The New York Times

April 17, 2002 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 2; Editorial Desk; Pg. 23

Length: 680 words

Byline: By Max Rodenbeck; Max Rodenbeck is Middle East correspondent for The Economist and author of "Cairo: The City Victorious."

Dateline: CAIRO

Body

Bahrain is as far from Ramallah as Bermuda is from ground zero. Yet it was a Palestinian flag that shrouded the body of Muhammad Jumaa, a Bahraini janitor felled by a policeman's plastic bullet in a protest at the American embassy, when he was buried last week. He was hailed as the latest martyr for Palestine.

Never, in a half century of Middle Eastern conflict, have ordinary Arabs so identified with the Palestinian tragedy as they do today. As network coverage of Vietnam shocked Americans with the immediacy of a far-off war, satellite television's insistent, graphic imagery of the intifada has taken its bloody drama into millions of Arab households.

Before Israel's reinvasion of the West Bank, neither its own leaders nor America's appear to have appreciated how the new power and reach of the Arab media could work against the Israelis. While other Arabs have always taken the Palestinians' side, the violent images are increasing the sense of personal interest in the conflict. When half a million Moroccans marched in a recent protest against Israel, many carried placards saying, "We are all Palestinians."

The perspective is different, of course, from that of Americans watching the televised war in Vietnam. Arabs see the current conflict through "Vietnamese" eyes -- as the story of a kindred people fighting to rid their land of a brutal occupying army. The drama generates not weariness with war but a thirst for justice, for sacrifice and revenge.

Some may dismiss such passions as the product of propaganda, and it is true that the region's news media are hardly beyond reproach. Hezbollah runs a technically impressive and visually compelling satellite channel that beams nonstop incitement to attack "the Zionist enemy." Even Al Jazeera, the most editorially sophisticated of the Arab satellite channels, stoops to hyperbolic use of terms like genocide to describe Israel's iron-fisted methods. More often than not, Israeli losses are passed off lightly.

Stories of Palestinian casualties, by contrast, are textured with memory. Some have become household names from Morocco to Muscat: Muhammad al-Dura, the 12-year-old boy from Gaza whose father could not shield him from a hail of Israeli gunfire; or Wafa Idris and Ayat al-Akhras, the first female suicide bombers, who were the objects of a tribute by Egyptian movie stars during a charity performance at Cairo's opera house.

Broadcasting the War

Yet Arab coverage of the conflict is not really much more one-sided than, say, America's gung-ho coverage of the Persian Gulf war. (Or, for that matter, Israeli reporting on the intifada: Most Tel Aviv editors seem to accept Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's view that the press's job is "to give the nation pride and hope.") The fact is that Arab television, radio, newspapers and magazines have come a long way in recent years. Gone is the time when Arabs had to turn for the truth to the BBC, as in the Six Day War of 1967, when Egyptians learned from London of a calamitous defeat even as Cairo trumpeted triumph.

In the heyday of Arab nationalism, in the 1960's, it was said that the sound of battle should drown all other voices -- that there should be no dissent. Now that private satellite channels vie with state broadcasters and Arabic dailies published in London compete with local newspapers, there are multiple voices. Some, like Al Jazeera, rival and sometimes surpass Western models for the quality and timeliness of their reporting. It was Al Jazeera that broke the story of the April 7 ambush in Jenin in which Israel lost 14 men.

To an extent, it is the very modernity of today's Arab media that fuels passions. Television has a natural penchant for stripping events of their historical context, instead framing them as a sequence of climaxes under one dramatic heading, like "America's War on Terror." Yet it does not really require subtle manipulation to frame the ongoing tragedy as an epic struggle of the weak against the strong. The imagery saturating Arab screens, of tanks crushing ambulances and helicopters rocketing refugee camps, is, alas, all too real.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Drawing (Peter Buchanan-Smith)

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

In the wake of Commodore Lehre

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

August 30, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial; BRIAN KAPPLER; Pg. A6; Column

Length: 749 words

Byline: Brian Kappler

Body

Commodore Eric Lehre went back to work this week, running the Pacific coast part of Canada's navy.

(This fleet is actually a little bigger than the three dinghies and a scow you might expect: five frigates, two destroyers, a supply ship, some inshore vessels; 2,500 people in all. But that's another column.)

Lehre, you'll recall, is the officer who fell on his sword over dirty pictures. Called to sit in judgment on a sailor who had viewed Internet pornography, Lehre revealed he had done sort of the same thing himself: used a Defence Department laptop, on his own time and through his own Internet account, to surf some "Penthouse-like" sites. Montreal Gazette

The commodore won wide acclaim for his honourable honesty. "He did the right thing," said retired Lt.-Gen. Lewis Mackenzie.

He did indeed, disdaining the old-boys'-club atmosphere in which military officers -- in every country -- find it easy to overlook each other's transgressions. Lehre is by all accounts a good officer; it would have been unfair to punish him for doing the right thing.

He was charged with "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline," a catch-all offence the military uses for everything from spitting on the parade ground to retailing bombs to Hezbollah.

boys will be boys

In fact, though, Lehre's action may have been good for order and discipline in the Canadian Forces: in any organization, everybody likes to think that the bosses are obeying the rules, too.

Lehre's only real punishment was a \$200 fine for using a government laptop in a non-politically correct way. Most of the pundits and much of the public reacted with a shrug: boys will be boys. "More male than malfeasant," said the National Post.

And yet there was no such tone this summer, when six Ontario civil servants were fired and 183 more reprimanded, for sending each other nude ("Penthouse-like") photos and crude jokes over government computers.

The cases aren't directly comparable.

Some of the Ontario jokes had racial overtones, apparently and it's easy to understand why any "speech" entailing racial prejudice is a serious offence for a civil servant. But in fact, published reports said the e-mail in question was mostly "distasteful."

Funny word, that.

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In 1970, a big U.S.-government study concluded that porn does little harm. A 1985 version claimed porn had become more violent since 1970 and that violent porn incites violent sex crime.

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multibillion-dollar business

Some sociologists claim that studies now prove any pornography may lead to aggressive sexual behaviour. Feminist theoreticians agree. And yet porn is pervasive, on magazine racks, on the Internet, in video stores.

Then we have "near porn:" fashion magazines, "reality TV," and rock videos. There's a continuum from the cleavage and bedroom jokes on sitcoms through to Penthouse -- and beyond.

Nobody denies that the porn trade is a multibillion-dollar business in North America (although dollar-figure estimates can't be trusted, since the industry and anti-porn crusaders both have an interest in big numbers).

Sexual stimulation you can buy, rent or download is a fact of life in this age of Viagra. As with marijuana and alcohol, the X-rated genie is out of the bottle. Much of society has opted in. A growing proportion of users are said to be women.

So adults are free to make their own decisions and then are responsible for the consequences. That's exactly the way society should work.

The only problem is that not everyone is an adult. We know intuitively, as well as from medical and scholarly evidence, that too-early exposure to sexuality -- in just about any form -- can be profoundly harmful to children.

You say your son spends a lot of time on the Internet? Your daughter wants clothes like Britney's?

If we can't even stop depanneurs from selling children cigarettes and lottery tickets, what are we going to do about this?

Graphic

BRIAN KAPPLER

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR;
Grace period's end has no local effect

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
December 1, 2002 Sunday CITY EDITION

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Section: OPED; Pg. 7B

Length: 734 words

Body

Re the Nov. 21 article "cable rules could lower monthly costs," which was picked up from the Cox News Service and carried here: It is unfortunate that the article did not fully explain the FCC rule and is causing confusion for local Time Warner Cable customers. The article was not clear on a couple of critical points:

Only cable operators who were not technically capable of delivering the basic tier of service and a per-channel offering - HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, etc. - were given a 10-year grace period to become compliant with the law. The law actually went into effect with the 1992 Cable Act. Calling this a "new" federal regulation, as the article did, is inaccurate. Oct. 5 was the end of the grace period for noncompliant cable operators.

* A per-channel offering does not mean a customer can subscribe to any channel on a per-channel basis. The channel "offering" means any channel that is offered on a per-channel basis, typically premium channels such as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, STARZ or The Movie Channel.

Time Warner Cable in the Greater Dayton area has been compliant with the law since its inception in 1992, so it is has been our practice to not require the purchase of the CPST, or Standard, tier of service to receive per-channel offerings. More than 95 percent of our customers still choose to subscribe to CPST. The expiration of the 10-year grace period has no impact on Dayton-area Time Warner Cable customers.

Due to this article's lack of clarity, we have received numerous phone calls. Inaccuracies of this nature cause great inconvenience to our customers and Dayton Daily News readers. We always make ourselves available to speak with the media and are disappointed that we were not contacted before this article went to print.

Kelly E. Brown Beaver Creek

Ms. Brown is government affairs manager for Time Warner Cable, Greater Dayton.

Bush's Iraq policy stinks

No matter how earnest and in command President Bush appeared when he updated the American people on Iraq, his ideas here are just as misguided as on nearly every policy his administration is championing.

He is trying to sabotage the United Nations' efforts to exercise some limitation on the exploding world population. Rather than help with the work of providing clean water to the 2 billion people who do not have that luxury, the president backs measures that would have us doubling ourselves to 12 billion by the year 2050, with possibly more than half of us then having little, if any, clean water.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Grace period's end has no local effect

Meanwhile, this recently victorious politician, with the cooperation of Congress, has arranged to bankrupt the U.S. government by squeezing the tax base halfway out of existence while at the same time promoting an ever-larger income gap between the super wealthy and the one-time middle class/working class.

This is the figurehead we want to lead us into a misconceived abomination of a war? I'd laugh, but I find it difficult through my tears as our president pretends to want Iraq's disarmament through peaceful means. The innocent men, women and children he is threatening should remind us of the 10,000 Iraqi dead because of U.N. and U.S. policies since the first Gulf War ended.

Lee A. Risley Kettering

Strike at terrorism's roots

Dr. Hans Josef Horchem, head of West Germany's anti-terrorist Office for the Defense of the Constitution, noted in 1979, "The KGB is engineering international terrorism. The facts can be proven, documented and are well known to the international Western intelligence community."

Russia, of the former Soviet Union, is the principal sponsor of world terrorism. It was Russia's President Vladimir Putin who recently concluded a \$40 billion agreement with Saddam Hussein. Russian military advisers and scientists have always been a critical segment of Iraq's weapons-of-mass-destruction program.

The U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, in its 1985 "State-Sponsored Terrorism" report, noted that treating terrorist acts as individual incidents without political pattern or strategic dimension was naive.

The current actors, al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Hamas, etc., depend upon the same state sponsors, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Cuba, etc. - and, ultimately, Russia and China - as did terrorist organizations in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Going after Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein is like attacking the tentacles while ignoring the terror octopus head.

Al Kuchinka Fairborn

Graphic

PHOTO, PAUL TONG/L.A. TIMES SYNDICATE

Load-Date: December 4, 2002

Israel abandons truce and kills six Palestinians

The Times (London)

October 4, 2001, Thursday

Copyright 2001 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 761 words

Byline: Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

US ATTEMPTS to cool the Arab-Israeli conflict suffered a severe blow yesterday when Israeli forces abandoned recent restraint and killed at least six Palestinians in a Palestinian-ruled area of the Gaza Strip.

The deaths came during an armoured incursion, backed by a naval blockade, that was part of Israel's no-holds-barred response to Tuesday night's Hamas raid on the Gaza Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai that left two young Israelis dead and 15, including two children, wounded.

The two gunmen were shot dead by Israeli special forces. Hamas issued a triumphant video made by the men before the attack in which they boasted about their action and described it as part of a religious struggle by oppressed Muslims.

Abdallah Shaban, one of the dead attackers, said to the camera: "I am the son of a people who are killed and massacred and the son of a religion that imposes jihad and the son of a nation that rejects submission to occupation.

"Our act is for God's sake and God knows it will please all Palestinians because our people have been deeply wounded in Deir Yassin, Qibya, Kufr Qassem, Sabra and Shatila." These were references to the sites of massacres of Palestinians.

Both of the gunmen -who must have known that they had no chance of surviving their mission -came from Jabalya, one of Gaza's most squalid refugee camps and one of the main breeding grounds of Islamic extremism in the region.

The release of the video came only hours after Israel's Security Cabinet had decided to lift recent restraints imposed on its military under the terms of last week's truce agreed with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Ministers authorised "all necessary measures to defend Israel".

The decision, which ministers said would involve a return to the controversial policy of targeted killings, which are described by Palestinians as "legalised assassinations", could not have come at a worse time for Washington.

Donald Rumsfeld, the US Defence Secretary, has just begun a tour of Arab states to secure their support for President Bush's anti-terror coalition.

Israel abandons truce and kills six Palestinians

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, indicated in a hard-hitting speech that there were limits to Israel's willingness to compromise. "Israel will not pay with its citizens' lives in order to appease the Arab states so that they will join the international coalition against terror," he said.

He urged the world to declare Hamas, Islamic Jihad (which planted a car bomb in Jerusalem on Monday), and Hezbollah, as terrorist organisations and treat them accordingly. Gideon Saar, Israeli Cabinet Secretary, said: "The principle is very simple. We prefer the Palestinian Authority (led by Mr Arafat) to prevent terrorism from its territory, but if it does not do it, our security forces will."

The speed and severity with which Israeli forces retaliated for the raid on Alei Sinai took diplomats by surprise. Many had wrongly been expecting a milder response in light of the demands being made by the US.

Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into territory close to the settlement in the north of the occupied Gaza strip shortly after 5am. A Palestinian security source said that the Israeli forces had destroyed at least ten police posts.

Palestinian officials said that an Israeli tank shell killed at least five Palestinians, four of them policemen, inside a security post. During heavy shooting in the Palestinian village of Beit Lahia another Palestinian was killed and seven injured, three seriously.

Dozens of residents of the rundown village of cinderblock homes and rubbish-strewn streets fled in panic. "I had to take my children out of the house, carrying two at a time," said Mahmoud Abu Khalil, 40, a Palestinian father of ten. "We ran further inside the village. The tank shells and bullets never stopped."

Tensions rose further late yesterday when Palestinian gunmen fired into a crowd of Jewish worshippers at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank city of Hebron. The worshippers were celebrating Sukkoth, or the Feast of the Tabernacles. Two women were injured, one seriously.

Security forces are on alert for the possibility of renewed violence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem today. The extremist Jewish group, Temple Mount Faithful, plans to attempt to drive symbolic "corner stones" for a third temple to a parking lot outside the walls of the old city. Israeli police have not said if they will allow the action.

A similar controversial ceremony a few weeks ago sparked serious Arab rioting. The Palestinians have vowed to again try to disrupt the Jewish group's plans.

Load-Date: October 4, 2001

Aiding The Enemy

The New York Times

April 12, 2002 Friday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 6; Editorial Desk; Pg. 25

Length: 734 words

Byline: By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF; E-mail: , nicholas@nytimes.com

Body

Who would have imagined that anyone could turn a vacillating dictator like Yasir Arafat into a hero, while also sowing discord between Israel and its greatest ally?

Ariel Sharon has managed to do both. And by defying President Bush's appeals and using helicopters paid for with United States tax dollars to destroy Palestinian homes and lives, he is also undermining American credibility in the region.

Now there is also a growing risk of a larger war. Israel is understandably outraged by Hezbollah rocket attacks from Lebanon and is contemplating striking back -- at Syria. An Israeli cabinet member said this week that Israel was seriously considering hitting Syrian targets, and acknowledged: "The magnitude of the conflict may be a huge one."

Mr. Sharon is, of course, brutally provoked by Mr. Arafat's duplicity and dalliance with terrorism, and one can't help sympathizing with his need to satisfy an Israeli electorate that understandably demands a response to bombings. Yet Mr. Arafat is such a catastrophe as a leader that it falls upon Mr. Sharon to display enough wisdom for both.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sharon has made a career of responding to Palestinian outrages by pursuing rash military solutions that ultimately harm Israel rather than bolster it.

In October 1953, for example, Palestinian infiltrators murdered a young Israeli woman, Susan Kanias, and her two small children. The young Mr. Sharon led a commando group on a retaliatory raid against the Palestinian village of Qibya.

Mr. Sharon's unit blew up buildings in Qibya and killed 69 Palestinians, many of them women and children who were apparently hiding inside. In his memoirs, Mr. Sharon describes the killings as mostly accidental and as a "tragedy."

That 1953 Qibya reprisal was emotionally satisfying to Israelis victimized by terror, as today's incursions are, but it did nothing to reduce terrorism. The number of Israelis killed in terrorist incidents increased in 1954 and nearly doubled again in 1955.

Aiding The Enemy

In fairness, criticizing Mr. Sharon's harsh tactics is easy. The harder question is what Israel should do to defeat terrorism. The answer, which Colin Powell is trying to deliver, is straightforward: The only way out will be a political deal creating a Palestinian state.

It will be even harder now than a year ago, when Mr. Arafat's intransigence helped kill the deal. In Gaza last week, Hamas radicals told me that Mr. Arafat had mistakenly strayed into the peace camp but now realized that Israel understood only brute force. And a senior Israeli general said: "No one has thought there was a military answer until now, but we are beginning to think about it."

Moreover, while no one is focusing yet on the incursion's impact on the Palestinian economy, it is devastating. The middle class is evaporating into the kind of economic tumble that a World Bank study of civil conflict two years ago found has often helped ignite domestic rebellions.

"The closures on Gaza and the West Bank mean that today more than half the Palestinian population is living under the local poverty benchmark, which is \$2 a day," said Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the United Nations Development Program. "This was an economy that was growing at 10 percent a year, the tax collection system was working pretty well, and now it's been driven back to third-world poverty levels."

The intellectual underpinning of Mr. Sharon's argument is the notion that we must never negotiate with terrorists -- or, as President Bush put it, "There is no way to make peace with those whose only goal is death."

It's a lofty ideal, but in fact we negotiate with terrorists all the time. That's how a cease-fire was reached this year in Sri Lanka, and it's the basis for peace talks to end rebellions in Sudan, Congo and Angola.

The world simply isn't so tidy as to provide a blanket solution to terrorism. Sometimes, as in Afghanistan, there is a military answer. In other cases, such as Pakistan, there is a political answer. In some places, there is both: the Philippines has worked out peace deals with two rebel groups but is using military power to try to destroy a third.

Our principle should not be "Never negotiate with terrorists" but rather "Don't reward terrorism." Unfortunately, by turning a menace like Mr. Arafat into a hero all over the Arab world, Mr. Sharon is creating incentives for terrorism and undermining Israel's long-term security.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 12, 2002

Get media-wise in Iraq

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JULY 23, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A13

Length: 717 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

Here's a suggestion for saving American lives in Baghdad.

Soap opera.

I'm not joking. One of the most inexplicable and dangerous failings of U.S. occupation authorities is their failure to communicate with the Iraqi people. Ordinary Iraqis don't know who's in charge or what U.S. officials are doing. This breeds suspicion and hostility along with false and vicious rumors about the actions of American troops.

Just this week, an anti-American mob of 10,000 gathered in Najaf on the basis of a rumor that Americans had arrested a prominent cleric. The rumor wasn't true, just like popular rumors that U.S. troops look through women's clothes with night-vision goggles.

So you might think that the Coalition Provisional Authority (or CPA) would be seeking new ways to get its message out. You might think the CPA would be brainstorming with Iraqis about creative television programming.

You might think that - but you would be wrong.

The Iraqi Media Network - the CPA-funded operation that dominates domestic broadcasting - is dull and repetitious, with little original programming and limited news programs. Iraqis are far more likely to tune in to foreign TV channels, like those of Iran, which has 24-hour news programs that blast U.S. occupation. Or a Lebanese network run by Hezbollah, a group labeled as terrorist by the U.S. government.

Iraqis with the money buy satellite dishes that bombard them with Arab channels like Al-Jazeera, with its endless anti-American talk shows. Since most Iraqis are currently jobless, they sit at home listening (when they have electricity) to a diet of anti-American news programs.

Meantime, the CPA shows little sign that it knows how to overcome its isolation from Iraqis. The Pentagon has yet to put enough money or staff into coalition television to produce original programming or expand its meager news shows.

Get media-wise in Iraq

This isn't a problem that can wait. U.S. officials must have a means to get the facts out. They must have the means to keep Iraqis informed about plans to move toward elections - and end the occupation. They must give the new Iraqi interim government - which is supposed to be the first step toward elections - a way to publicize efforts to draft a new Iraqi constitution and set up a new judicial system.

There are plenty of good suggestions about how to do this, if the CPA is finally ready to finance a serious Iraqi media operation. No signs yet that they are.

"Radio and television programming are the most critical means to getting the message out," says a new report by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which just assessed U.S. reconstruction efforts. The report prescribes a massive effort to establish more local TV stations and to set up a national "headline news"-type program.

Frederick Barton of the CSIS also suggests that coalition TV set up a crime watch show so that Iraqis can phone in tips about looters and share information. All-day news shows on radio and TV could combat Iranian misinformation.

Several Iraqi friends say that TV or radio talk shows would give Iraqis a chance to air their grievances. Why not have a fresh-faced Iraqi TV host haul in CPA and Iraqi officials to be questioned by callers, so they could feel a personal connection with their interim rulers? As the CSIS report noted: "Without seeing or hearing [CPA head Paul] Bremer and others, disinformation will continue to prevail over truth."

But my favorite suggestion comes from Timothy Carney, a former U.S. diplomat who just spent three months with the CPA in Baghdad. He thinks one way "to capture Iraqi popular interest would be a soap opera with a select few characters." Imagine a show, with fine Iraqi actors (there is a theater tradition in Baghdad) who dramatized Iraqis' suffering under Saddam, and their struggles to cope with the new situation.

Through soap operas, Iraqis could see actors resolve their problems, could feel they weren't alone, could even watch as CPA officials did (or didn't) do things right. There might even be a U.S. soldier-hero - like some of the young officers I met who are building schools or setting up new city councils.

And in between the soap segments, bulletins could keep Iraqis apprised of real news.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: August 2, 2005

End of Document

Telling Friend From Foe

New York Sun (Archive)

November 28, 2003 Friday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 779 words

Byline: By DANIEL PIPES

Body

If militant Islam is the problem and moderate Islam is the solution, as I often argue, how does one differentiate between these two forms of Islam? It's a tough question, especially as concerns Muslims who live in Western countries. To understand just how tough it is, consider the case of Abdurahman Alamoudi, a prominent American figure associated with 16 Muslim organizations.

FBI spokesman William Carter described one of those, the American Muslim Council, as "the most mainstream Muslim group in the United States." The Department of Defense entrusted two of them, the Islamic Society of North America and the American Muslim Armed Forces and Veterans Council, to vet Islamic chaplains for the armed forces. The State Department thought so highly of Mr. Alamoudi, it hired him six times and sent him on all-expenses-paid trips to majority-Muslim countries to carry what it called "a message of religious tolerance."

Mr. Alamoudi's admirers have publicly hailed him as a "moderate," a "liberal Muslim," and someone known "for his charitable support of battered women and a free health clinic."

However, this image of moderation collapsed recently when an Alamoudi-endorsed chaplain was arrested and charged with mishandling classified material; when Mr. Alamoudi himself was arrested on charges of illegal commerce with Libya, and when Mr. Alamoudi's Palm Pilot was found to contain contact information on seven men designated by our government as global terrorists.

Distinguishing between real and phony moderation, obviously, is not a job for amateurs such as American government officials. The best way to discern moderation is by delving into the record - public and private, Internet and print, domestic and foreign - of an individual or institution. Such research is most productive with intellectuals, activists, and imams, all of whom have a paper trail. With others who lack a public record, it is necessary to ask questions. These need to be specific, because vague inquiries - such as "Is Islam a religion of peace?" and "Do you condemn terrorism?" - have little value, for they depend on definitions (of peace, of terrorism, etc.).

Useful questions might address subjects such as:

Violence: Do you condone or condemn the Palestinians, Chechens, and Kashmiris who give up their lives to kill enemy

civilians? Will you condemn by name as terrorist groups such organizations as Abu Sayyaf, Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, Groupe Islamique Armé, Hamas, Harakat ul-Mujahidin, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, and Al Qaeda?

Telling Friend From Foe

Modernity: Should Muslim women have equal rights with men (for example, in inheritance shares or court testimony)? Is jihad, meaning a form of warfare, acceptable in today's world? Do you accept the validity of other religions? Do Muslims have anything to learn from the West?

Secularism: Should non-Muslims enjoy completely equal civil rights with Muslims? May Muslims convert to other religions? May Muslim women marry non-Muslim men? Do you accept the laws of a majority non-Muslim government and unreservedly pledge allegiance to that government?

State Imposition of Religious Observance: What do you think of banning food service during Ramadan? When Islamic customs conflict with secular laws (e.g., covering the face for drivers' license photographs), which should give way?

Islamic Pluralism: Are Sufis and Shiites fully legitimate Muslims? Do you think that Muslims who disagree with you have fallen into unbelief? Is takfir (condemning fellow Muslims with whom one has disagreements as unbelievers) an acceptable practice?

Self-criticism: Do you accept the legitimacy of scholarly inquiry into the origins of Islam? Who was responsible for the September 11 suicide hijackings?

Defense Against Militant Islam: Do you accept enhanced security measures to fight militant Islam, even if this means extra scrutiny of yourself (for example, at airline security checkpoints)? Do you agree that institutions accused of funding terrorism should be shut down, or do you see this a symptom of bias?

Goals in the West: Do you accept that Western countries are majority-Christian and secular or do you seek to transform them into majority-Muslim countries ruled by Islamic law?

It would be ideal if these questions were posed publicly - in the press or in front of an audience - thereby reducing the scope for dissimulation.

No single reply establishes a militant Islamic disposition (plenty of non-Muslim Europeans believe the Bush administration itself carried out the September 11 terrorist attacks); and pretence is always a possibility, but these questions offer a good start to the vexing issue of separating enemies from friends.

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

Problem goes deeper than navy man's slip

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 25, 2001 Saturday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Brian Kappler; Column

Length: 748 words

Byline: BRIAN KAPPLER

Body

Commodore Eric Lehre went back to work this week, running the Pacific coast part of Canada's navy.

(This fleet is actually a little bigger than the three dinghies and a scow you might expect: five frigates, two destroyers, a supply ship, some inshore vessels; 2,500 people in all. But that's another column.)

Lehre, you'll recall, is the officer who fell on his sword over dirty pictures. Called to sit in judgment on a sailor who had viewed Internet pornography, Lehre revealed he had done sort of the same thing himself: used a Defence Department laptop, on his own time and through his own Internet account, to surf some "Penthouse-like" sites. The Gazette

The commodore won wide acclaim for his honourable honesty. "He did the right thing," said retired Lt.-Gen. Lewis Mackenzie.

He did, indeed, disdaining the old-boys'-club atmosphere in which military officers - in every country - find it easy to overlook each other's transgressions. Lehre is by all accounts a good officer; it would have been unfair to punish him for doing the right thing.

He was charged with "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline," a catch-all offence the military uses for everything from spitting on the parade ground to retailing bombs to **Hezbollah**.

In fact, though, Lehre's action may have been good for order and discipline in the Canadian Forces: in any organization, everybody likes to think that the bosses are obeying the rules, too.

Lehre's only real punishment was a \$200 fine for using a government laptop in a non-politically-correct way. Most of the pundits and much of the public reacted with a shrug: boys will be boys. "More male than malfeasant," said the National Post.

And yet there was no such tone this summer, when six Ontario civil servants were fired, and 183 more reprimanded, for sending each other nude ("Penthouse-like") photos and crude jokes over government computers.

The cases aren't directly comparable. Some of the Ontario jokes had racial overtones, apparently, and it's easy to understand why any "speech" entailing racial prejudice is a serious offence for a civil servant. But in fact, published reports said the E-mail in question was mostly "distasteful."

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Sexual stimulation you can buy, rent or download is a fact of life in this age of Viagra. As with marijuana and alcohol, the X-rated genie is out of the bottle. Much of society has opted in. A growing proportion of users are said to be women.

So adults are free to make their own decisions, and then are responsible for the consequences. That's exactly the way society should work.

The only problem is that not everyone is an adult. We know intuitively, as well as from medical and scholarly evidence, that too-early exposure to sexuality - in just about any form - can be profoundly harmful to children.

You say your son spends a lot of time on the Internet? Your daughter wants clothes like Britney's? If we can't even stop depanneurs from selling children cigarettes and lottery tickets, what are we going to do about this?

- Brian Kappler's E-mail address is bkappler@thegazette.southam.ca.

Load-Date: August 25, 2001

Suicide bomber kills self, 2 others at outdoor mall

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

May 28, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; NEWS

Length: 716 words

Dateline: PETACH TIKVAH, ISRAEL

Body

A suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at an outdoor mall in a city next to Tel Aviv, killing himself and two other people and wounding about 20, police and witnesses said.

The bomber struck the city of Petach Tikvah as Israeli forces were conducting a sweep through the West Bank town of Bethlehem, one of a series of quick raids aimed at stopping suicide bomb attacks. Soldiers left the town of Qalqiliya just before the suicide bombing in Petach Tikvah, east of Tel Aviv.

Police and hospital officials said two people - a woman and a two-year-old girl -- were killed. Among the wounded were several babies. Police commander Aharon Franco said a body at the scene was "apparently the suicide bomber."

Associated Press

A baby carriage, its blue fabric stained by blood, lay on its side in the midst of the rubble. A witness who gave his name as Haim told Israel radio that the attacker struck "children and babies who were sitting with their parents at the cafe near the supermarket."

The Lebanese TV station Al-Manar, representing the **Hezbollah** guerrillas, broadcast a claim of responsibility from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, affiliated with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

David Baker, an official in the Israeli prime minister's office, said: "Palestinian terror continues to strike out at Israeli **women** and children." He said Israel would use "all the resources at its disposal" to stop terror attacks.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said: "We have to do whatever possible to beat these things, by military means and also by political means."

Earlier, police in Jerusalem defused a bomb discovered by a gardener outside an apartment building. The explosives had been hidden in a plastic bag.

Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that despite continued warnings about plans by Palestinian militants to carry out suicide attacks, Israel was not on the verge of another large-scale military operation on par with the six-week Defensive Shield offensive which ended earlier this month.

Dozens of armoured vehicles and jeeps drove into Bethlehem and surrounding towns and refugee camps before dawn yesterday and imposed a curfew on tens of thousands of Palestinians in the second incursion into the area in two days.

Suicide bomber kills self, 2 others at outdoor mall

Israeli troops blocked access to Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, built over the grotto where Christian tradition holds that Jesus was born, to prevent another standoff at the shrine with Palestinian gunmen. During Defensive Shield, armed Palestinians fleeing advancing Israeli troops were holed up inside the shrine for 39 days.

In the Dheisheh refugee camp, Israeli troops arrested Ahmed Mughrabi, a local leader of the Al Aqsa militia, residents said. Mughrabi is suspected by Israel of having recruited two suicide bombers in Dheisheh, camp residents said.

In the adjacent town of Beit Sahour, troops commandeered a highrise building and shut down the local radio station located inside, residents said.

Israeli troops also entered the outskirts of Ramallah in the West Bank, blocking off a road and searching buildings, Palestinians said. Military sources confirmed soldiers were operating in the area.

In downtown Ramallah, about 2,000 supporters of Arafat's Fatah movement demonstrated for the release of Marwan Barghouti, the Fatah leader in the West Bank who was taken into Israeli custody last month. Protesters wore shirts with Barghouti's picture on it while others waved Palestinian flags and posters.

A recent poll indicated that Barghouti is the most popular Palestinian leader after Arafat.

The incursions are part of a new tactic of quick raids based on intelligence gathered by Israel's security services, said army spokesman Brig.-Gen. Ron Kitrey. "The large number of warnings . . . is worrying and requires us to be wound up as tightly as a spring, to be alert everywhere," Kitrey told army radio. "The method is to go to precise locations which we have earmarked."

Jewish settlers in the West Bank, meanwhile, launched a campaign yesterday to attract more Israelis to join them, prompting angry protests from Palestinians. Settlers in the Binyamin area, which is in the central West Bank, aim to bring 1,000 families, about 4,500 people, to their 32 settlements by the end of the year, said Elazar Sela, one of the organizers of the campaign.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; An Israeli medical worker carries a girl to a stretcher as she arrives at Belinson hospital in Petach Tikvah following a suicide bombing at an outdoor mall in the city near Tel Aviv yesterday.

Load-Date: May 28, 2002

End of Document

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

Canberra Times (Australia)

February 18, 2004 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 806 words

Body

SINCE Ariel Sharon's accession to the post of Prime Minister of Israel, political commentators have been hotly debating whether the conservative leader will end up "doing a de Gaulle". French leader Charles de Gaulle was another right-of-centre former general who assumed his nation's highest office in the midst of a seemingly insoluble military crisis - the French-Algerian War. During the French elections of 1958, de Gaulle successfully campaigned for the presidency on the slogan "Vive l'Algerie Francaise!" Yet, upon assuming office, the new head of state shocked the world by severing the ties that bound France to its North African possession, and promoting Algerian independence. Sharon's recent declaration of his intention to dismantle most Israeli settlements in Gaza might indicate that those who argued in favour of the de Gaulle scenario were right. But, it remains to be seen whether such a unilateral withdrawal will enhance Israel's security, or detract from it. On an operational level, Sharon's plan to uproot 17 of 21 Gaza settlements will make the life of the Israel Defence Forces much simpler. Thousands of Israeli soldiers would no longer be required to guard vulnerable Jewish communities situated in the midst of a large and hostile Palestinian population. But, any tactical advantage gained by a redeployment of Israel's troop strength could be more than offset by the strategic disadvantage incurred by the fillip any such retrograde Israeli action would provide to Palestinian terrorist groups. This is arguably what happened in 2000 when Israel summarily withdrew its forces from a buffer zone it had created along its frontier with Lebanon.

Established in 1985 to protect Israel's northern-border communities from terrorist attack, this narrow band of territory became a theatre of war between the IDF and Hezbollah Islamic fighters.

While the conflict in the "security strip" was a classic low-intensity combat scenario, it nonetheless was quite deadly. Throughout the late 1990s, about one Israeli soldier, on average, was being killed a month in Lebanon. From a purely military perspective, such a casualty rate was inconsequential. With its dedication to realistic live-fire exercises, the IDF lost more men each year to training accidents than were lost to combat operations in Lebanon. Yet, this incessant progression of casualties provided plentiful political ammunition to a growing public campaign in favour of a complete IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. The locus of this advocacy effort centred on the "Four Mothers Movement", a group of middle-aged women who demanded the removal of "our sons" from the buffer zone. In May 2000, then Prime Minister Ehud Barak ordered the IDF to abandon the security strip, thus fulfilling a campaign promise from the previous year's election. But, less than four months after Israel's pullback from Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza erupted in a wave of violence and terrorism that continues to this day. Some analysts directly connect those two events. Writing a year after the pullback from Lebanon, Brigadier General (retired) Shlomo Brom of Tel Aviv University said, "It appears that the withdrawal from Southern Lebanon had a great influence on the Palestinians."

Sharon finds a puzzling place with his stance on Gaza

It reinforced the perception among them that Israel is vulnerable to terrorism and guerrilla warfare, and that the staying power of the Israeli public has been damaged."So, Israel finds itself in a very difficult position. With an economy deeply mired in recession and with a population demoralised by suicide bombings, many Israelis find the prospect of disengagement from Gaza to be an extremely appealing concept. Moreover, some analysts would note that Sharon is facing the prospect of criminal indictment on corruption charges, and is in dire need of political pick-me-up. The supporters of withdrawal from Gaza argue that the removal of settlements, and the resulting redeployment of IDF forces, will greatly enhance Israel's defensive posture.

Yet, the \$64,000 question is whether the Palestinians will interpret a unilateral pullback as a sign of Israeli weakness. If this becomes the prevailing perception in the West Bank and Gaza, then Israel's withdrawal could bring, not quiet, but rather violence of redoubled intensity. One leading Israeli peace activist recently tried to differentiate between the Lebanese withdrawal of 2000 and the current Sharon proposal for a pullback from Gaza. "I think there's a basic difference because Lebanon was an adventure," said Hebrew University Political Science Professor Shlomo Avineri. Yet, with a charter that declares its dedication to Israel's annihilation, it remains to be seen whether a Palestinian terrorist group such as Hamas will accept any such a distinction.

Ted Lapkin is senior policy analyst for the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council.

Load-Date: February 17, 2004

End of Document

Misleaders lead to more murders

University Wire

April 1, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Daily Cougar via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 666 words

Byline: By David C. Salinas, The Daily Cougar; **SOURCE:** U. Houston

Dateline: HOUSTON

Body

Just over a week ago Israeli forces killed Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and a couple of his bodyguards with three missiles, and intensified a battle that has already seen more than enough bloodshed. Now I don't mean to say that Yassin was a good man -- he was the founder of the terrorist organization, Hamas, which has killed hundreds of people. But what does murdering an elderly, quadriplegic man do to further the peace process in the Middle East? Apparently it caused a teenager to strap a bomb to his chest and try to kill as many people as possible, including himself. Instead of thinking about girls or sports, this kid was contemplating suicide in an attempt to help his people's "cause." Unfortunately other children have been successful in this "mission."

Just imagine being a Palestinian child who sees nothing but violence and oppression, and has the belief that there is nothing left to do other than end your own life along with the lives of others around you. Now imagine being an Israeli child who kisses their parents goodbye as they go to school, not knowing if they'll return that night. Imagine being afraid to go to a mall because you may be blown up by the person standing next to you. In this conflict we are always too quick to vilify one side or the other, but it's important to remember that a majority of these people have nothing to do with this violence -- they are the victims. The leaders, on both sides, are the villains in this horrific situation.

The people to blame are the leaders -- I should say the misleaders -- like Ariel Sharon and Yasser Arafat, who have done nothing for the people they pretend to defend. We all know that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the terrorist group the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has been involved in the deaths of numerous innocent people, but many don't know about Ariel Sharon's destructive past.

In 1953, Sharon joined the Haganah, an underground military organization, and was given command of "Unit 101." His unit took part in the demolition of refugee camps, killing innocent people, including the elderly, women and children. In a village in Qibya he led a group that blew up 45 houses, killing 69 civilians, two-thirds of whom were women and children. This could not be chalked up to the miserable concept of "collateral damage" either.

So the first solution to this conflict might be to not let men who deal in violence lead the way to peace. Quite frankly, they wouldn't know how to get there. Over their lifetime, the answer to violence has been more violence. This vicious cycle hasn't seemed to affect them personally, so they, and groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, will perpetuate the bloodshed until they are removed from the process.

Misleaders lead to more murders

The next step is to find moderate, secular-thinking people and put them in charge of both sides. Of course this should be done as democratically as possible, but a little pushing and prodding by the United Nations wouldn't hurt. Then, and only then, can we get to some sort of compromise. The word "compromise" is thrown around a lot, but it's what is most needed here. Neither side can get exactly what they want, but if you give Palestinians a fair share of the land they desire, and give the Israelis the peace and security they want, I'm sure the people would be content, if not happy. Remember, it's not the people at large who have been causing the problems here.

I know this issue is more complex than I might realize, but I know you can't solve complexity with violence. For every Sheik Ahmad Yassin you kill, you create 100 more men like him, who are younger, angrier and more violent. They can't bomb their way out of this problem; they'll have to think their way out. I don't believe any of the current leaders there, or here for that matter, can come close to solving this problem. But someone needs to, and fast. Because no child, Israeli or Palestinian, should ever wake up from a nightmare only to realize their reality is much worse.

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Load-Date: April 1, 2004

End of Document

National Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

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Length: 743 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Body

3 conspiracy suspects agree to plead guilty

Two men and a woman accused of supporting a Lebanese terrorist group have agreed to plead guilty in Charlotte in connection with the government's massive investigation into cigarette smuggling, money laundering and sham marriages.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth Bell announced Tuesday that the government has reached deals with Ali Fayeze Darwiche, Sam Chahrour and Angela Georgia Tsioumas, who are among 10 defendants accused of conspiring to aid Hezbollah, a Lebanese organization labeled a terrorist group by the United States.

The plea bargains will likely require the suspects to testify against their co-defendants in what is expected to be the first time anyone accused of aiding overseas terrorists is put on trial in America under a 1996 federal law banning material support to foreign terrorist groups.

United mechanics reject offer, authorize strike

CHICAGO - Union mechanics at United Airlines have rejected their contract offer and authorized a strike.

The contract was voted down Tuesday night by 68 percent of the mechanics and in a separate vote, 86 percent of the membership authorized a strike, the union said.

The rejected contract offer included immediate pay raises of as much as 37 percent, but required them to give back some of those wages soon to aid the struggling carrier's recovery effort.

A walkout could begin as soon as Feb. 20 unless a last-minute settlement or congressional action blocks it.

Gore says U.S. must get new anti-terror strategy

NEW YORK - Al Gore, re-entering America's foreign policy debate, accused the Bush administration Tuesday of showing "impatience and disdain" toward U.S. allies in the war in Afghanistan and said military force alone would not win the long struggle against terrorism.

National Briefs

Speaking at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Gore embraced President Bush's controversial description of Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil." But he said that other dangerous forces have to be addressed, such as poverty, ignorance, environmental problems, disease, corruption and political oppression.

For Gore, the appearance at the council marked another step back into the national spotlight. Members of the New York-based think-tank include some of the nation's most influential foreign policy experts, and the media was invited to listen in.

Comcast secretly tracks subscribers' browsing

WASHINGTON - Comcast Corp., the nation's third-largest cable company, has begun tracking the Web browsing activities of its 1 million high-speed Internet subscribers without notifying them.

Comcast said Tuesday the tracking of each Web page a subscriber visits was part of a technology overhaul designed to save money and improve the speed of cable Internet service to its customers and was not intended to infringe on privacy.

But technology experts cautioned that the data could be subpoenaed by law enforcement agencies or lawyers in civil cases, and they questioned whether Comcast's move reflects a more cavalier attitude toward online privacy in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Census: 1 in 4 Indians in Oklahoma, California

WASHINGTON - One in four American Indians lives in Oklahoma or California, according to the 2000 census. Cherokee and Navajo are by far the tribes most often checked off on forms.

A report being released today shows 4.1 million people who claimed to be all or part "American Indian or Alaska Native." In the 1990 census nearly 2 million people who checked off that race, though figures are not directly comparable because of differences in the way race and ethnicity data are tallied.

The Census Bureau used a massive advertising and outreach effort to improve its American Indian count, especially on isolated and hard-to-reach reservations. For many tribal governments, results are crucial to secure accurate funding from the federal government, said Louis Tutt, the Navajo Nation's census liaison.

Revelers go patriotic

NEW ORLEANS - Mardi Gras revelers who filled the streets of New Orleans' French Quarter added a patriotic twist to the debauchery Tuesday, mixing red, white and blue with the traditional purple, green and gold of Carnival.

On Bourbon Street, strings of beads - including new red, white and blue necklaces - rained down on young women who bared their breasts.

"I got the really good beads," bragged Joe Chin, 23, of Miami. "I know it's cold, but girls are still happy to show them for these babies."

Load-Date: March 12, 2002

New tune: Where Have All The Commies Gone?

The Cambridge Reporter

December 20, 2002 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: CAMBRIDGE NEWS; Pg. A7; COLUMN

Length: 747 words

Byline: BOB GREEN

Body

Remember the song Where Have All The Flowers Gone?, the wistful anthem of North American youth protesting shirts and ties, haircuts, conscription (in the U.S.) and the Vietnam war?

This was back in the '50s and '60s when everywhere Communists were poised for acts of terrorism and subterfuge and NATO was formed to deter their pre-emptive wars. God-fearing people built fallout shelters.

Senator Joe McCarthy whipped the U.S. into such a phobia of Communism that even after he was censured by the U.S. Senate and died of alcoholism in 1957 the momentum of his witch hunts drove America into a fight to the death with communists in the Vietnam war.

Now, 27 years later, one might write a song Where Have All The Commies Gone?

By last week most of them had joined NATO, the very organization formed to fight them, so that they can help us fight the new terrorism.

Glen Morris, by the way, has banned Al Qaeda terrorists from using the community hall. And the custodians say that they plan to ban Hezbollah and several other terrorist organizations too as soon as they get the spelling straightened out.

Everglades Park joined NATO last week at the same time as Bulgaria.

At the height of the great Commie scare of the '50s I was attending Ryerson Institute. The student sport of the day was to sneak either into a Communist rally on Spadina Avenue and risk hell or into a Billy Graham rally at Maple Leaf Gardens and risk heaven.

My good friend from Galt, Don McFadyen, then playing bass fiddle with Calvin Jackson and Peter Appleyard at the Park Plaza, ventured out of curiosity into a communist meeting on Spadina, was photographed by the RCMP and notified forthwith that he would no longer be allowed across the U.S. border.

An RCMP officer asked the staff at the Galt library to forward to him the names and addresses of patrons who borrowed books about Karl Marx or any other fellow traveller. Yes! Just ask former librarian Albert Bowron.

In my journalism class at Ryerson an idealistic young man, Ben Shek, edited an underground Communist periodical called Champion and scared our instructors silly by pinning copies to their bulletin boards.

New tune: Where Have All The Commies Gone?

Ben invited me to visit his editorial office. It was on King Street just a block west of The Toronto Star above a grimy print shop which cast in lead pamphlets for various seditious plotters.

Champion's editorial room might well have been a set designed by Mel Brooks for a satirical revue. The walls were plastered with large Russian posters of statuesque maidens hurling discus in an orchard and of burly farm hands passing sheaves of wheat to motherly matrons who resembled Mrs. Khrushchev.

Everywhere Champion back issues and inflammatory pamphlets in many languages urging rebellion to most things that came to mind were stacked on tables too cluttered to see. Filing cabinet drawers permanently jammed open by wads of pamphlets and foreign newspapers forced one to squeeze through to the editorial desk in front of a door marked "toilet."

Three Rubenesque ladies with enormous bosoms and wearing thick spectacles were busy trying to pass one another in the aisles.

It was a fashionable at this time for ladies at women's liberation rallies to cast off their brassieres and set fire to them. Ben, who hadn't lost all of his humour, said he told his staff to avoid this degenerate movement because without their brassieres they wouldn't be able to sort through the lower drawers of the filing cabinets, and if they burned them they would cause a four-alarm fire.

Following the Hungarian revolution and Russia's brutal occupation, Ben Shek and most other Communists in Toronto, including two elected members of the Ontario legislature (the Communist party was never outlawed), Salzberg and MacLeod, burned their membership cards. Ben turned to selling insurance . . . another terrorist threat.

The fear by-word now in the U.S. is no longer "Communist." It is "liberal" (small l) especially "elite liberal." That is people against the proliferation of handguns and automatic weapons, opposed to the war with Iraq, for government-sponsored health insurance, or anything else that bothers George Bush.

This has little to do with the Liberal Party of Canada, but considering the American comprehension of Canada don't be surprised if a heat-seeking missile demolishes the next Liberal leadership convention.

And then we can sing Where Have All The Liberals Gone?

Bob Green is an artist, writer and longtime Cambridge eccentric. His column runs every Friday.

Load-Date: December 20, 2002

**AIDING THE ENEMY;
ISRAEL UNDER SHARON, PURSUING RASH MILITARY SOLUTIONS, HAS
GIVEN ARAFAT A HEROISM HE DOESN'T DESERVE**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

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SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,

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Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

Who would have imagined that anyone could turn a vacillating dictator like Yasser Arafat into a hero, while also sowing discord between Israel and its greatest ally?

Ariel Sharon has managed to do both. And by defying President Bush's appeals and using helicopters paid for with U.S. tax dollars to destroy Palestinian homes and lives, he is also undermining U.S. credibility in the region.

Now there is also a growing risk of a larger war. Israel is understandably outraged by Hezbollah rocket attacks from Lebanon and is contemplating striking back -- at Syria. An Israeli Cabinet member said last week that Israel was seriously considering hitting Syrian targets, and acknowledged: "The magnitude of the conflict may be a huge one."

Sharon is, of course, brutally provoked by Arafat's duplicity and dalliance with terrorism, and one can't help sympathizing with his need to satisfy an Israeli electorate that understandably demands a response to bombings. Yet Arafat is such a catastrophe as a leader that it falls upon Sharon to display enough wisdom for both.

Unfortunately, Sharon has made a career of responding to Palestinian outrages by pursuing rash military solutions that ultimately harm Israel rather than bolster it.

In October 1953, for example, Palestinian infiltrators murdered a young Israeli woman, Susan Kanias, and her two small children. The young Sharon led a commando group on a retaliatory raid against the Palestinian village of Qibya.

Sharon's unit blew up buildings in Qibya and killed 69 Palestinians, many of them women and children who were apparently hiding inside. In his memoirs, Sharon describes the killings as mostly accidental and as a "tragedy."

That 1953 Qibya reprisal was emotionally satisfying to Israelis victimized by terror, as today's incursions are, but it did nothing to reduce terrorism. The number of Israelis killed in terrorist incidents increased in 1954 and nearly doubled again in 1955.

AIDING THE ENEMY; ISRAEL UNDER SHARON, PURSUING RASH MILITARY SOLUTIONS, HAS GIVEN ARAFAT A HEROISM HE DOESN'T DESERVE

In fairness, criticizing Sharon's harsh tactics is easy. The harder question is what Israel should do to defeat terrorism. The answer, which Colin Powell is trying to deliver, is straightforward: The only way out will be a political deal creating a Palestinian state.

It will be even harder now than a year ago, when Arafat's intransigence helped kill the deal. In Gaza earlier this month, Hamas radicals told me that Arafat had mistakenly strayed into the peace camp but now realized that Israel understood only brute force. And a senior Israeli general said: "No one has thought there was a military answer until now, but we are beginning to think about it."

Moreover, while no one is focusing yet on the incursion's impact on the Palestinian economy, it is devastating.

The middle class is evaporating into the kind of economic tumble that a World Bank study of civil conflict two years ago found has often helped ignite domestic rebellions.

"The closures on Gaza and the West Bank mean that today more than half the [Palestinian] population is living under the local poverty benchmark, which is \$2 a day," said Mark Malloch Brown, the head of the United Nations Development Program. "This was an economy that was growing at 10 percent a year, the tax collection system was working pretty well, and now it's been driven back to third-world poverty levels."

The intellectual underpinning of Sharon's argument is the notion that we must never negotiate with terrorists -- or, as President Bush put it, "There is no way to make peace with those whose only goal is death."

It's a lofty ideal, but in fact we negotiate with terrorists all the time. That's how a cease-fire was reached this year in Sri Lanka, and it's the basis for peace talks to end rebellions in Sudan, Congo and Angola.

The world simply isn't so tidy as to provide a blanket solution to terrorism.

Sometimes, as in Afghanistan, there is a military answer. In other cases, such as Pakistan, there is a political answer. In some places, there is both: the Philippines has worked out peace deals with two rebel groups but is using military power to try to destroy a third.

Our principle should not be "Never negotiate with terrorists" but rather "Don't reward terrorism."

Unfortunately, by turning a menace like Arafat into a hero all over the Arab world, Sharon is creating incentives for terrorism and undermining Israel's long-term security.

Notes

Nicholas D. Kristof is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times. His e-mail address is nicholas@nytimes.com. Thomas L. Friedman is on vacation.

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

Linked and dangerous: Terror Inc

Sunday Times (London)

September 23, 2001, Sunday

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Section: Features

Length: 2712 words

Byline: Nick Fielding

Body

Rebel groups became more powerful as they found ways to support each other

'Terrorists attack American targets more often than those of any other country. America's pre-eminent role in the world guarantees that this will continue to be the case and the threat of attacks creating massive casualties is growing.'

Those prophetic words from the National Commission on Terrorism, published only weeks before the devastating attacks on New York and the Pentagon, underline the fact that America's intelligence community at least was clearly aware of the possibility of an attack by fundamentalist terrorists on its most treasured institutions.

So why had they underestimated so terribly the deadly efficacy and scope of the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist groups?

Terrorism is nothing new but the end of the cold war and the dissolution of the Soviet bloc removed at a stroke many of the traditional enemies of the western democracies; communist-backed or sympathising terrorists such as the Red Brigades or Carlos the Jackal had nowhere to hide.

Nationalist terror groups such as Eta in Spain or the IRA in the United Kingdom persisted. But according to US State Department figures, the total number of terrorist attacks worldwide has been decreasing steadily since 1981. Of the 200 attacks aimed at Americans or American institutions last year, the vast majority -172 -occurred in Latin America (most were bombings of North American businesses).

There were only two attacks on American interests in the Middle East, four in Asia, six in Africa and seven in western Europe. The number of terrorist attacks on America itself was negligible.

However, the attacks, although small in number, have been growing in deadliness and intensity. First there was the 1983 attack on the US embassy and later the US marine barracks in Lebanon which killed 241 soldiers. Then followed attacks on the World Trade Center in 1993, on a US air base in Saudi Arabia in 1996, on American embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi in 1998 and the attempted sinking of the USS Cole in Aden harbour in October last year. Other plots were foiled.

The reason for these increasingly regular and violent attacks was Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. These extreme groups (condemned by most peaceful Muslims) want to force America out of the Middle East and drive Israel into the sea. But where did they come from and how are they linked?

Linked and dangerous: Terror Inc

It was the overthrow of the shah of Iran by a radical Muslim movement in 1979 that set fundamentalist Islam on a collision course with America. The new government led by Ayatollah Khomeini determined to humiliate the "Great Satan", as they dubbed America; one of its first actions was to seize dozens of hostages in the American embassy in Tehran and hold them captive for almost a year.

In neighbouring Afghanistan the Russians invaded in support of a discredited pro-Soviet regime. As the war progressed and the CIA and MI6 poured in guns to humiliate their old Soviet foe, the principal benefactors were a growing band of Islamic fundamentalists.

To these two events can be traced many of the developments which have given us what we now call Islamic terrorism. In the 1980s Iran began to support liberation struggles across the world, sanctioning attacks on its opponents and issuing fatwas. Iran encouraged the formation of the Shi'ite Hezbollah in Lebanon, a group dedicated to attacking Israel and specialising in suicide attacks.

Iran was isolated by the West but continued to play an active and incendiary role in Middle Eastern politics while its agents killed opponents in Europe. But it was events in Afghanistan which internationalised the threat from Islamic terrorists. Willing recruits arrived to take part in the struggle, which they saw as a holy war or jihad, against the Soviet Union. An estimated 18,000 young men from the Arab diaspora turned up in Afghanistan to fight: Saudis, Egyptians and Algerians formed the greatest number. But they came from all over the world, including Chechnya, Lebanon, Sudan and the Philippines. These "Arab Afghans", as they became known, continued to flock to Afghanistan after the Russians withdrew in 1989. Then the Gulf war in 1991 polarised their attitudes to America.

Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi who became a hero when he fought against the Russians with the mujaheddin, was affronted by the presence of American troops on what he saw as the holy soil of Saudi Arabia. His wealth and charisma won his organisation Al-Qaeda a large following. While never seeking to control or limit the actions of his followers, he encouraged unstinting opposition to the United States, particularly to its presence in Saudi Arabia. The well armed and well trained fundamentalists now had a new enemy. They also had a new ideology. Somewhere between the austere Islam of the Wahhabis of Saudi Arabia and the equally ascetic form of Islam taught throughout the madrasahs (Koran schools) which proliferated in Afghanistan and Pakistan emerged an invigorated and brutally fundamental form of Islam.

This new form of Islam told its followers to ignore the "Kufr" (ungodly) states of the West, extolled the virtues of jihad and urged them to follow an ultra-strict way of life. Martyrdom in the cause of Islam guaranteed a place in heaven and enjoyment of the carnal pleasures of beautiful virgins. Women were restricted to the role of chattels and all forms of entertainment were forbidden. The word of the Koran was all that mattered. Above all there was to be no compromise with the decadent West, only its replacement with an Islamic state.

This, then, is the creed -but how do these fundamentalist groups interlink? What unites them is their vision of an Islamic future; unsurprisingly, the different groups meet in war zones where they can fight for the Islamic cause. War zones such as Kashmir, where Arabs in their thousands fight for Pakistan against India, became fundamentalist hotbeds.

Other fundamentalist fighters made their way to Bosnia or Chechnya where they developed fearsome reputations for their bloodlust and willingness to die for their cause. Chechen websites are full of accounts of Arabs who have died fighting the Russians. From Chechnya the Islamic warriors have spread throughout many former Soviet states, including Georgia, Daghestan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley.

Others returned to their homes in the Philippines where, as the Abu Sayyaf group, they soon became notorious for kidnapping westerners. And, of course, hundreds of fighters returned to the Middle East where their arrival has had a devastating effect on domestic politics. In Egypt the Islamic Group and the Al-Jihad organisation have targeted western tourists: in November 1997 the Islamic Group killed 58 tourists at Luxor.

Other members of Al-Jihad and the Islamic Group, including several of Bin Laden's henchmen, remain at liberty. Some, including the blind cleric Umar Abd al-Rahman, who is now in an American prison, were involved in the 1993

Linked and dangerous: Terror Inc

bombing of the World Trade Center. Thousands of his supporters are incarcerated in Egyptian prisons. In Algeria, the Armed Islamic Group has carried out a campaign of bloody massacres, sometimes wiping out entire villages.

These groups and many more subscribe to the world outlook of the Al-Qaeda group, which also acts as a clearing house for planning outrages.

It is this loose structure, with militants from many different countries acting independently but ultimately united in a common outlook, which has been the secret of Al-Qaeda's success. Already it is beginning to emerge that Imad Mugniyah, the Hezbollah founder from Lebanon, and Ayman al-Zawahri, an Egyptian who is one of Bin Laden's closest lieutenants within Al-Qaeda, although he is part of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, may have played a central role in planning the American attacks.

Zawahri, for instance, appeared in a recent video alongside Bin Laden threatening retaliation against the United States for the detention of Rahman. Their violent acts often cause these men to be barred from returning to their own countries. But many move easily around the world using false documentation and a wide network of supporters which often communicates through radical mosques.

Many militants have passed through London which, because of our asylum rules, continues to be a gathering point for Muslim and Arab radicals. Traditionally the United Kingdom has taken a comparatively soft line on such people. London harbours dozens of terrorists who live openly despite having convictions or being sought by police in their own countries.

Yasser al-Siri, for example, who supplied key documents to the fundamentalists who killed Ahmed Shah Masood, the Afghan opposition leader, last week, lives openly in London despite being wanted for murder in Egypt.

The networks supporting these different fundamentalist groups are strong enough to sustain them anywhere in the world. As the American investigation has shown, many terrorists have been living for years in the West. People who knew those accused of bombing the World Trade Center have remarked on how normal and unassuming they were. They know how to operate undercover and have made few mistakes.

The brotherhood created by battling together in Chechnya, Bosnia, Kashmir or Afghanistan has forged strong bonds and informal networks impervious to penetration by intelligence agents. The alliances that exist between networks such as Al-Qaeda or Egyptian Islamic Jihad are those between old comrades-in-arms, people who fought together, often in the most terrible conditions.

At one time Bin Laden could be reached by satellite telephone, but now all contact is through trusted messengers. Having lived either under war conditions in Afghanistan or as international fugitives, the militants are not easy to track, changing their identity, appearance, even nationality, to throw investigators off the trail.

Central to all such terrorists, however, are the mosques. They are the bases for recruitment, particularly in the poorer rural areas in the Arab world. Often the only form of education available is religious and depends largely on the character of the local priest. For idealistic youth, the adventure of military training and a martyr's death is a powerful draw, particularly when the alternative is life as a farmer.

While some are recruited young and within their own societies, others are recruited in the mosques and student Islamic societies of the West. Clever, idealistic young men who take their religious studies seriously seem to see in the fundamentalist vision of the world a "pure" form of Islam. Many of them regard the dynastic regimes in the Gulf as corrupt. Hundreds are believed to have been recruited in Britain: many first made contact with Al-Qaeda through organisations such as Al-Muhajiroun, which makes no secret of its recruitment activities.

Once they have given a basic level of commitment and are well versed in the particular form of Islam promoted by Al-Qaeda, these young recruits are given contact details of supporters abroad who will guide them to Bin Laden's training camps, taking them across international borders.

Held together by belief and armed service, buoyed by a conviction in the justness of their cause and careless of their own lives, these terrorists form a deadly threat. The West has a fight on its hands.

THE TERRORIST GROUPS AND HOW THEY INTERLINK

1 AL-QAEDA (The base)

Founded in late 1980s by Osama Bin Laden to organise Arabs who had fought in Afghanistan. Helped to finance, recruit and transport Sunni Islamic extremists Aims: To spread Islamic fundamentalism and destroy US interests in the Middle East December 1992: Claimed to have carried out three bombings against US troops in Yemen 1993: Claimed to have shot down US helicopters in Somalia.

1995: Attempted to organise mid-air bombing of 12 separate US airliners February 1998: Issued statement calling on all Muslims to kill US citizens and their allies August 1998: Conducted bombings of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, killing 301 people and injuring more than 5,000 others Supporters: Probably has several thousand members, but acts as a focal point for many other organisations. Many supporters based in Afghanistan.

2 ARMED ISLAMIC GROUP (GIA)

Founded in 1992 after the Algerian government voided elections in which the Islamic Salvation Front won a clear victory Aims: To overthrow secular Algerian government December 1994: Hijacked an Air France flight to Algiers.

1999: Several members convicted of a bombing campaign in France Has conducted campaign of massacres (main tactics are throat-slitting and car bombs), killing many thousands of Algerian civilians and more than 100 foreigners Supporters: GIA probably has around 1,000 members. Algerian government has accused Iran and Sudan of supporting the organisation.

3 AL GAMA'A AL-ISLAMIYYA (Islamic Group)

Founded in late 1970s. Egypt's largest militant group Aims: To overthrow the Egyptian government and replace it with an Islamic state June 1995: Claimed responsibility for attempt to assassinate President Mubarak November 1997: Killed 58 tourists at Luxor March 1999: Issued a ceasefire, later rescinded by spiritual leader Umar Abd al-Rahman, who is in a US prison after taking part in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing Supporters: At its peak probably had several thousand members, but many are now in prison or abroad A former member of the organisation, Rifa'i Taha Musa-a, signed the Bin Laden fatwa calling for attacks on US citizens.

4 HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)

Founded in 1987 from Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Loose structure with some members working in social organisations or fundraising, others working secretly August 1999: Offices in Amman, Jordan, closed and leaders arrested. Attacks include suicide bombings on Israeli targets Supporters: Thousands of supporters in West Bank and Gaza Strip. Receives funding from Palestinian expatriates, Iran, supporters in Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states.

5 HAKKAT UL-MUJAHEDDIN

Previously known as Harakat al-Ansar Based in Pakistan with members active mainly in Kashmir. Now led by Farooq Kashmiri, but previous leader, Fazlur Rehman Khalil, signed the Bin Laden fatwa calling for attacks on US December 1999: Supporters hijacked Air India jet, forcing Indian government to release three of its militants arrested for kidnapping British tourists Supporters: Several thousand in Kashmir, Pakistan. Has access to mortars, machineguns, rockets and explosives. Receives financial support from Saudi Arabia and from Pakistanis and Kashmiris.

6 **HEZBOLLAH** (Party of God)

Also known as Islamic Jihad, Revolutionary Justice Organisation. Founded by radical Shia muslims in Lebanon Aims: destruction of Israel October 1983: Involved in suicide truck bombing of US embassy in Beirut Also responsible for kidnapping westerners, including Terry Waite and John McCarthy 1992: Attacked the Israeli

Linked and dangerous: Terror Inc

embassy in Argentina, killing 29 people Supporters: Thousands of supporters in the Bekaa Valley, southern Lebanon and Beirut.

Allied with Iran.

7 ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF UZBEKISTAN

Based mainly in the Ferghana Valley, eastern Uzbekistan. Strongly opposed to the secular regime of President Islom Karimov February 1999: Believed to be responsible for five car bombs in Tashkent 1999 and 2000: Several incidents of hostage-taking, including four American mountaineers Supporters: Several thousand fighters based in camps in Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

8 AL-JIHAD

Also known as Islamic Jihad Founded in late 1970s and now very close to Bin Laden Aims: To overthrow Egyptian state and form Islamic government. 1981: Assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt 1995: Responsible for Egyptian embassy bomb in Islamabad, Pakistan Supporters: Several hundred members, many now in prison. Egypt claims it is supported by Bin Laden.

9 ABU SAYYAF GROUP

Based in southern Philippines. The smallest and most radical of Islamic separatist groups.

Many members trained in Afghanistan.

Engaged in bombings, assassinations, kidnappings to promote independent Islamic state Supporters: Believed to have about 200 core fighters, with another 2,000 supporters.

Supported by the Middle East.

Graphic

War on terrorism; Terror in America

Load-Date: September 24, 2001

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME;
WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB
ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM**

The Independent (London)

August 17, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: First Edition; FEATURES; Pg. 38,39

Length: 1404 words

Byline: REBECCA ARMSTRONG

Body

Grenades " check. Sniper rifle " check. Prayer mat " check. Gamers may be used to saving the day by taking on alien forces from another universe but a new wave of computer games are more concerned with saving the world from non-believers. With titles like Special Force and Under Siege, these games sound similar to military titles like Medal of Honour that regularly top the UK games chart for best-selling titles. Once people start playing though, it's obvious Special Force and Under Siege are very different both in quality and in content to their mainstream rivals.

Hizbollah, a radical Islamic group, spent two years developing Special Force, a PC game designed to compete with games showing Arabs as enemies and Americans as triumphant heroes. Emblazoned across the cover is the invitation to: 'Be a partner in the victory. Fight, resist and destroy your enemy in the name of force and victory.'

Inspired by actual Hizbollah missions, Special Force takes place during operations on Israeli soldiers. Players have to deal with the same conditions as real Hizbollah fighters, including weather conditions, mines and the number of enemy " Israeli " troops. During training, players can practise their sniping skills on Israeli political and military figures including the Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Mahmoud Rayya, an official from the Hizbollah bureau, explained at the game's launch that 'this game is resisting the Israeli occupation through the media'. The game sold thousands of copies in Lebanon in the first two weeks after its release and has gone on to sell at least 10,000 more since.

Under Siege is another pro-Palestinian first person shooter (FPS) and is the sequel to Under Ashes, a game launched in 2001. Under Siege and Under Ashes were developed by Afkar Media, a Damascus-based software company that claims it creates games to educate as well as eliminate. 'We believe we had to share responsibility in telling the story behind this conflict and targeting youngsters who depend on video games and movies " which always tell the counter side " to build their world knowledge.' Under Ashes went on to sell more than 10,000 copies in the Middle East, as well as being downloaded more than 500,000 times from the company's website.

The game itself is a basic FPS that is billed as suitable for children aged over 13 despite the vast armoury available to players. Radwan Kasmiya, Afkar Media's executive manager, insists the game promotes non-violent methods. 'This is not a game about killing. We are attempting to provide a new sort of digital dignity.' Despite the warfare, the game does have a self-perception seldom found in mainstream military titles. At the end of one level, there is a tagline that reads: 'A real life story or a political propaganda? You have the right to decide.'

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

While these titles aim to redress the balance to a genre dominated by victorious US soldiers defeating Arab enemies, there are other games available that reflect a wider unease with Western thinking. The Ummah Defence titles are fairly innocuous, with robots as enemies and an Islamic universe under threat. In *The Maze of Destiny*, players battle with an evil wizard named Darlack the Deceiver who has ruined a Muslim utopia where everyone worships Allah by stealing the Book of Allah and imprisoning anyone who knows Allah's teachings. Armed only with their wits and their faith, players must rescue the wise ones from Darlack's dungeons. Challenges include setting bombs to open secret passageways and exploring endless labyrinths. Stylistically, the game is like an early Nintendo title but at its heart is the secular Darlack who plies people with alcohol, drugs, prostitutes and gambling.

All three titles are created by Islamgames, a US-based company that makes titles featuring battles between the defenders of Islam and their opponents. The company explains its stance by stating that: 'Video games are a great learning tool, but many games available teach things contrary to the teachings of Islam. By providing an alternative to the mainstream, we can help our children in a subtle way learn to identify with Islamic values and teachings.'

Islam Fun is a collection of PC mini-games aimed at encouraging children to learn more about Islam. In among *Two Bunny Race* and *Building Blocks* "Build a Mosque" is the more alarming *The Resistance*. Gamers play a farmer in South Lebanon who has joined the Islamic Resistance to defend their land and family from invading Zionists. As the game is aimed at five- to seven-year-olds, it seems this particular mini-game is slightly advanced. In defence of their subject matter, Innovative Minds, the company behind Islam Fun, made this statement. 'The questions in the game educate children not to fall for the Zionist lie that Zionism, Jewishness and Judaism are synonymous but to understand that Zionism, a racist ideology, has nothing to do with Judaism.' There's little danger that hardline titles are going to become bestsellers in the UK, despite their efforts to represent a different ideology. The Video Standards Council, which decides the age and content rating system for UK computer games, does not permit the sale of any game containing material featuring discrimination or incitement to hatred against any ethnic group. Any title that contains material like this is also highly likely to contravene criminal law in the UK and most European countries. But, online boundaries are blurred, as one downloadable game from America, *Ethnic Cleansing*, proves.

Johnny Minkley, the editor of MCV, the trade magazine for the games industry, isn't convinced that religious games are ever going to compete with mainstream titles. 'Video games are becoming a more acceptable mass-market media and a means of expression for more groups. It's natural evolution. Religious games are just one small facet of the games industry.'

John Houlihan, the editor of *Computer and Videogames*, agrees: 'There has been a move towards more religious gaming, both in America and the Middle East. However, these games are still very much a minority interest for the industry. Just like with music, the devil has all the best tunes "and all the best games.'

nSpecial Force

Developer: **Hizbullah** Central Internet Bureau

Like *Under Siege*, *Special Force* is a more professional title than, say, *Islamic fun*. Players simulate Hizbollah fighters during military operations against the Israeli army and action is inspired by actual Hizbollah operations. Stalking soldiers, blowing up tanks and full on street battles are the main aspects of the game as players run through a city battleground causing destruction.

(www.specialforce.net)

Islamic Fun

Innovative Minds

A selection of simple games for children that aim to teach them about aspects of Islam. Games like *Building Blocks*, where players create their own mosque, make up the majority. One stand-out mini-game is *The Resistance*,

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY: JIHAD: PLAY THE GAME; WESTERN PC GAMES FEATURE US FORCES DESTROYING ARAB ENEMIES. NOW ISLAM

where players take the role of a farmer in south Lebanon who has joined Hamas to defend his land and family from the invading Zionists.

(www.inminds.co.uk)

Under Siege

Afkar Media

The sequel to Under Ash, Under Siege is a first-person shooter (FPS) game played from the perspective of a Palestinian. In single-player mode, Under Siege is like many FPS games featuring a specific enemy (in this case, the Israeli army), and gives players an arsenal of weapons with which to do battle. Choose from grenades, rocket launchers, sniper rifles and automatic weapons. Graphically, Under Siege is underdeveloped and very basic, so it won't be rivalling Far Cry in the FPS stakes.

(www.underash.net)

Maze of Destiny

IslamGames

In Maze of Destiny, players must battle the evil wizard Darlack to rescue the teachers of the Koran and re-establish the true worship of Allah. Maze of Destiny is reminiscent of Zelda, with its maze-based 2D levels. Gamers have to negotiate labyrinthine dungeons while avoiding being plied with women or drink. Simple but effective.

(www.islamgames.com)

Ummah Defense 1 & 2

IslamGames

It's the year 2114 and the Earth is united under the banner of Islam. As a member of the Intergalactic Muslim Council, your job is to help co-ordinate Dawa efforts on other planets. But the Flying Evil Robot Armada attacks Earth and it's up to you to save the planet. The first title is a simple, Space Invaders-inspired game, while Ummah 2 is more sophisticated, like an early Mario title.

(www.islamgames.com)

Load-Date: August 17, 2005

Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

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National Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A12; Matthew Fisher

Length: 773 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, National Post

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - Banners with uplifting campaign slogans and giant photographs of Rafik Hariri, the recently assassinated former prime minister and his son, Saad, who seeks to inherit his father's mantle, were suspended above every major thoroughfare yesterday in what was once grandly known as the Paris of the Middle East.

There was also a lot of political noise generated by irritating hucksters who raced around town from dawn until dusk screaming the merits of the Hariri family and other politicians through loudspeakers mounted on the roofs of fleets of battered old cars.

Despite the hullabaloo, Beirut's smart cafe society has responded tepidly to Western-backed parliamentary elections that began in Beirut yesterday and are to end in the north of the country on June 19. So, too, have the much more conservative Christian and Muslim inhabitants of the mountain and valley villages that surround the Lebanese capital on three sides.

The closest election races have pitted Christians on Mount Lebanon against each other, but only in the predominately Shia Bekaa Valley has there been much political buzz. Even there it was almost entirely manufactured by well-organized ***Hezbollah*** cadres boasting, as always, about how they will never abandon their armed struggle against Israel and the United States -- a position that makes millions of more rational Lebanese despair of ever achieving the kind of lasting peace that will allow their tiny country to begin to tackle its daunting economic, social and communal problems.

After the intense passions that seized the country in the weeks following Mr. Hariri's death only three months ago, foreign journalists who have gathered here in large numbers for the election have been nonplussed by the pervasive political apathy that they have found. The Lebanese themselves wonder what happened to the millions of men, ***women*** and children who took to the streets to blame Syria for Mr. Hariri's murder and demand that the army that Damascus sent to occupy Lebanon several decades ago go home.

There has hardly been a campaign, at least in any way that Westerners might understand. There have been speeches and little talk of platforms or ambitions much beyond meaningless platitudes about peace and prosperity.

Lebanese vote has little passion: Fervour raised by Syrian presence is largely gone

Ignoring the throngs of demonstrators who not only wanted the Syrians out, but a government free, once and forever, of sectarian influences, Lebanon's old political guard, made up almost entirely of the grey men who have led Lebanon's many religious armies and political parties through decades of civil war, quickly returned to business as usual.

That has meant a series of elaborate secret negotiations that might have even made Paul Martin and Belinda Stronach blush. The first fruits of their backroom deals were that the winners in nine of Beirut's 19 ridings were acclaimed yesterday, as will be a dozen or more other members of parliament as the rest of the country votes over the next three Sundays.

These scuzzy arrangements have guaranteed that Lebanon's creaky political status quo will remain intact for several more years at least, albeit probably with Mr. Hariri's untried 35-year- old son as the prime minister.

Although Saad Hariri, who has probably spent more of his life in Saudi Arabia, where the family's major business interests are, than in Lebanon, is undoubtedly going to win a huge sympathy vote triggered by his father's death, he will not have a free hand.

Saad Hariri, who is Sunni, is already a prisoner of half a dozen paralyzing alliances with other religious factions. To gain power more such agreements will undoubtedly have to be negotiated before and perhaps after voting is completed.

The national unity that was shown after the senior Hariri's death was remarkable because Lebanon's 16 religious communities are as noted for their clannish infighting as their inability to get along with what might best be described as Lebanon's other tribes.

In private conversations last week the country still mostly spoke with one voice, but the message had changed a bit.

"We hate what has happened to our revolution," they said, "but we remain powerless to do anything about it."

It is far too early to state with conviction that Lebanon's so-called Cedar Revolution has petered out after only achieving one of its two goals -- to be rid of the Syrians. But it is surely dead if the Lebanese people have convinced themselves that they cannot shape their own destiny.

Ukraine's Orange Revolution and Georgia's Rose revolution succeeded because their supporters stayed the course. Such willpower does not exist in Lebanon today. Perhaps it never really did and never really will.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Adnan Hajj, Reuters; Saad Hariri is hamstrung by old alliances.

Load-Date: May 30, 2005

Vegetarian green light

The Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 25, 2005 Tuesday

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Section: GOOD LIFE; Pg. 14

Length: 766 words

Byline: Alison Walsh

Body

Eating vegetables has become sexy as decades of prejudice dissolves, writes Alison Walsh

'VEGETARIANS, and their Hezbollah-like splinter faction, the vegans, are a persistent irritant to any chef worth a damn," ranted American chef Anthony Bourdain in his best-selling autobiography Kitchen Confidential, which has just been made into a TV series in the US.

They are "the enemy of everything good and decent in the human spirit, an affront to all I stand for, the pure enjoyment of food", he wrote.

He's not alone in his thinking, with chefs widely known to grumble about having to create special dishes for vegetarians.

British uber-chef Gordon Ramsay told an interviewer a few years ago that the last time he lied was when he told a group of vegetarians there was vegetable stock in his artichoke soup but it was chicken.

Naturally, vegetarians were outraged. But the restaurant scene is changing and even Ramsay has added an eight-course vegetarian tasting menu at his flagship Chelsea restaurant, written a chapter about vegetarian food in his latest cookbook and spoken out about how embarrassingly poor a lot of vegetarian food is in many restaurants.

The British restaurant trade magazine Restaurant devoted its May issue this year to vegetarian food, noting that "vegetarians are no longer seen as worthy bores, and their new-found discernment is being catered for at the top of the trade".

Restaurateurs have noted that even meat eaters are increasingly keen to order lighter, vegetarian dishes.

Maureen Collier, the secretary/treasurer of the Vegetarian and Vegan Society of Queensland, says while there are not necessarily any more vegetarian restaurants in Brisbane, she's found mainstream restaurants increasingly willing to prepare suitable food, particularly if they are rung in advance.

"It's more acceptable now and chefs generally have a good idea of what's expected," she says. "They are happy to oblige and often go out of their way to do something special."

The society defines a vegetarian as a person who eats no meat, chicken, fish or seafood while a vegan eats no meat, seafood, eggs or dairy, avoids wearing clothes or accessories made from animal products and tries not to use products derived from or tested on animals, for example, honey.

Vegetarian green light

New health research has found a vegetarian diet can help control weight. **Women** who eat little or no meat were less likely to be overweight than their more carnivorous peers, according to research at the Tufts University in Boston that was published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in June.

Dietitians Association of Australia's Kate Di Prima says planning is the key to a healthy vegetarian or vegan diet to ensure the essential nutrients are gained from a wide variety of foods.

She said legumes, tofu and a range of "not-meat" legume-based products are excellent protein replacements. "But you need a good vitamin C with iron alternatives, for example a ripe tomato with a lentil burger or a fruit salad afterwards. Iron is locked up in vegetarian forms of protein and the vitamin C helps its absorption."

The Vegetarian and Vegan Society is taking part in World Vegan Day with celebrations at Orleigh Park in West End, on October 30. The public is invited to join in. Check www.vegsoc.org.au for details and information and recipes for a vegetarian/vegan diet.

SWEET POTATOES WITH ASPARAGUS AND PESTO

Serves four

4 small sweet potatoes, preferably thin ones

2 bunches (about 450g) asparagus (thick spears are best)

2 ripe tomatoes, cut in half

For the marinade:

2 tbs olive oil

2 tbs tamari (gluten-free soy sauce)

2 tbs water

Good dash of Tabasco sauce

1 tbs balsamic vinegar

To serve:

Pesto

Greek or sheep's milk yoghurt

Mix all the marinade ingredients together in a large bowl. Peel the potatoes and score them all over with a sharp knife. Cut into slices no more than 1cm thick, then place in with the marinade for 10 minutes. Grill on a medium heat for 15-17 minutes. As the potato slices start to soften, brush them with some of the remaining marinade. Baste the asparagus with more of the marinade and place on the grill, medium heat for two or three minutes on each side.

Place the tomatoes on the hotplate of the barbecue (or straight on the grill). This will allow you to bash them about a bit with a wooden spoon so they burst, release their juices and turn almost to a sauce. You can plate this before serving, a few potato slices per person, topped with the asparagus and the bashed tomato. A spoonful of pesto on top and a dollop of yoghurt.

Recipe from Enjoy -- New Veg by Nadine Abensur, Penguin, \$39.95 www.nadineabensur.com

Load-Date: October 24, 2005

Vegetarian green light

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Measuring the ripples

Guardian.com

March 11, 2005

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theguardian

Length: 1274 words

Highlight: It is premature to link positive changes in the Middle East to the triumph of democracy and freedom, or to the war in Iraq, writes .Ian Black.

Body

It was sometime in the 1970s when Zhou Enlai, the Chinese prime minister, was asked what he thought of the French revolution of 1789. It was, went his apocryphal reply, far too early to say. Caution is also needed, as Britain's foreign secretary, Jack Straw, admitted this week, in assessing the effect of the invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Two centuries is a long time to wait to make up your mind about anything, and anyway, everyone can already see that there really is something like the "ripple of change" across the Middle East that Tony Blair spoke of recently. Others have used images of waves or winds - like the one Harold Macmillan said was bringing decolonisation to Africa - but all bear freedom.

Iraq has been transformed by the demise of the Ba'athist regime, while Palestinian elections have produced a new leadership. Now, anti-Syrian demonstrations have shaken Lebanon, and there have been stirrings of reform in Egypt and even Saudi Arabia.

Supporters of the Iraq war, especially US neoconservative politicians and policymakers, feel vindicated by what President George Bush has called this "critical mass" of events, and cheered by some soul-searching from their bitterest critics.

Yet even as Mr Bush talks loftily of "freedom's march", some notes of caution are being sounded: democracy, the president warned, cannot be imposed by outsiders. And with so much to play for in the Middle East it is clearly not a good idea to sound either too triumphal or too impatient.

Not surprisingly, however, there are deep disagreements about whether it was the Iraq war that triggered these changes (some, in Qatar and Morocco, took place before it), whether they are linked in a sort of reverse "domino theory" of democratisation, and what they all mean.

Iraq's troubles, first of all, are far from over. And that is not just the view of those who are still angry at a reckless act justified by a false link with September 11 - the search for non-existent weapons of mass destruction - which caused terrible suffering to the Iraqi people and opened a deadly new jihadist front against the west.

Measuring the ripples

Only the other day over 120 Iraqis queuing for medical tests to join the security forces died in a single devastating suicide bomb attack in Hilla - powerful evidence that the insurgency has not gone away. Assassinations of policemen and officials are routine. The tasks of putting together a new government and writing a constitution still have a long way to go.

If Iraq is a mess, and a highly dangerous one at that, no one has yet worked out how to deal with neighbouring Iran's nuclear ambitions, even if another war and regime change seem to have slipped off the US agenda in favour of European diplomacy.

Also pre-dating the Iraqi polls, and because of the death of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian elections have produced an encouraging outcome which not even the White House is claiming credit for. Arafat's replacement by the pragmatic Mahmoud Abbas will have a good outcome only if Islamist violence is curbed and there is readiness in Israel to agree to the "viable" Palestinian state that is necessary for a workable peace settlement. That, in turn, will depend more on US pressure on Ariel Sharon than on any experiment with Arab democracy.

Progress in Saudi Arabia and Egypt - where for the first time Hosni Mubarak is to allow candidates to challenge for the presidency when he seeks his fifth term - is slow. Changes in both countries look like pre-emptive moves in the face of US pressure. That is not to say they do not have potential, especially if they encourage demands for further democratisation from within. It is to say, again, that these are early days.

Lebanon's "cedar revolution" - echoing the eastern European "velvet revolutions" of 1989 and the more recent "orange revolution" in Ukraine - looked thrilling. At least they did on TV, including satellite channels like Al-Jazeera that are watched by millions in the Arab and Muslim worlds. People power was certainly at work in response to the murder of the former prime minister, Rafiq Hariri.

But not all Lebanese people, it rapidly turned out, wanted the Syrians to leave. Hizbullah, the country's Shia Muslim political party-cum resistance movement which claimed credit for driving the Israelis out of the south, still wants Damascus to keep an eye on its smaller, vulnerable neighbour. And it encouraged huge crowds to make the point. Nor does it want to disarm and accept that the hated US, not a weakened, isolated Syria, calls the shots in the region these days.

The Lebanese were certainly affected by images of the voting in Iraq - giving a symbolic purple-stained finger to tyranny. But what has been happening in Beirut is more about nationalism than democracy. The agenda is an anti-Syrian one in which the underlying politics are still based on traditional confessional divisions. Free elections in May - if Syria's soldiers and secret policemen have left by then - are likely to prove that point.

Further afield, there are plenty of Middle Eastern regimes - Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan and Uzbekistan - where the winds of change have barely been felt because they have been backed by Washington for decades or have now become useful allies in the "global war on terror".

It would be fascinating to see, for example, how the US would react if Tunisia's repressive president, Zineddine Ben Ali, a modern Arab autocrat with a thin liberal veneer, were to face Islamist "people power".

Still, there are some important lessons to be learned from Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine: one is that the doom-mongers of the post 9/11 "clash of civilisations" school were wrong in claiming that Islam and democracy were fundamentally incompatible.

Another, especially for those Europeans who prided themselves on their superior and "realist" understanding of the Arab and Muslim countries they once ruled, is the danger of defending stability and cheap oil - Ba'athism, the Taliban, the House of Saud - at any price.

Britain, not for the first time, finds itself in mid-Atlantic bridging mode, interpreting the US to its EU partners, and trying to suggest a way ahead: "Faced with an American government of the right promoting a vision of how to change the world for the better, many on the left have become the staunchest advocates of the status quo," Straw argued on Thursday.

Measuring the ripples

"For them, President Bush's commitment to promoting freedom and democracy is simplistic; misguided; or .seen. as simply a veil for more sinister motives. The traditional positions of realists and idealists seem to have been reversed."

Several avenues are worth exploring: one is to think about Arab democracy without getting bogged down in disagreements about Iraq. It is right, surely, to acknowledge that good things can happen for bad reasons? No one, in any event, wants to see Saddam back in power.

Another is to look at more effective ways of encouraging change by helping Arab civil society; promoting women's rights and independent media to exploit the fissures in brittle regimes. Economic growth will help underpin such initiatives. The EU's "Barcelona process" can make a useful contribution to education and training programmes.

Perhaps the most important need is for America and Europe to work together, not against each other. The US and France moved beyond mutual rancour over Iraq to jointly draw up the UN resolution demanding Syria quit Lebanon. If the old and new continents can cooperate to the same degree over Israel and Palestine, that could go a long way to helping build that "new Middle East" of which we hear so much - but have so far seen tantalisingly little.

Load-Date: May 17, 2005

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In Focus

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 4, 2005 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 785 words

Byline: The Gazette

Body

Bubbly return to Earth

Exhausted and struggling to stay awake after 67 hours in his cramped cockpit, millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, 60, touched down in Kansas yesterday to become the first person to fly solo nonstop around the world. Details, Page A13

Saudis squeeze Syrians

As pressure mounts on Hezbollah to join Lebanon's anti-Syria opposition, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah has told Syrian President Bashar Assad to pull his troops out of Lebanon quickly. Details, Page A12

Cleric jailed 30 months

An Indonesian court yesterday sentenced alleged terror leader Abu Bakar Bashir to 30 months in prison for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, but cleared him of more serious charges. Details, Page A13

Pedophilia trial opens

Background: From 1999 to 2002, in the French town of Angers, 45 children from 6 months to 14 years old were raped or sexually abused, prosecutors say.

New: Thirty-nine men and 27 women go on trial yesterday accused of offences against the children. Psychological counselling is being offered to the jurors and the six judges to help them cope with the sordid testimony.

Next: The trial is expected to last four months. Details, Page A16

DeSousa: I'll be frugal

Background: The former city of St. Laurent and the municipality of Merignac, France, signed an economic-exchange agreement in 1992.

In Focus

New: Alan DeSousa, mayor of the St. Laurent borough, plans to renew those ties during a trip to France that starts tomorrow. His itinerary also includes meetings in Paris with potential investors and promoting St. Laurent's industrial park at a business show in Cannes.

Next: The trip is budgeted to cost \$12,200, but DeSousa says the final bill won't exceed \$10,000. Details, Page A5

Berube family in agony

Background: Michel Berube is on trial for first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Tanya Buschman, in 2002. The Crown contends he tried to make the killing look like a suicide. The defence claims Buschman hanged herself.

New: Friends and family of Berube, a 38-year-old waiter, say they find it impossible to believe he killed his wife. One friend spoke yesterday about the agony Berube's family is going through.

Next: Today is the fourth day of jury deliberations on Berube's fate. Details, Page A7

CEGEP students warned

Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier warned CEGEP students yesterday not to endanger their academic year through an indefinite strike. "We won't be giving out cheap diplomas," he said. Details, Page A7

Martin's right, Clark says

Background: Prime Minister Paul Martin announced this week Canada will not participate in the missile-defence system proposed by the Bush administration.

New: Former Progressive Conservative prime minister Joe Clark voices support for Martin's position, saying there are too many unanswered questions about the U.S. plan for Canada to get involved.

Next: Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper has yet to spell out his position on the missile defence shield. Details, Page A9

Business

Seeking a sweeter deal

An association representing Quebec's maple syrup producers is seeking \$40 million from the provincial government over the next five years to establish an insurance program to protect them against market price fluctuations. Details, Page B1

Bombardier: No decision

Bombardier yesterday denied it has already selected Montreal over three competing sites to assemble its proposed new CSeries passenger jet. Details, Page B1

Preview

A celebration of breasts

Back for its second year, the Mardi Bra Carnaval uses sexy Brazilian dancers, a lingerie fashion show and bodypainting to draw young people to a fundraiser that hopes to raise awareness about breast cancer. Details, Page D1

Rival film fest: No talks

When Moritz de Hadeln, head of the New Montreal FilmFest, arrives here next week, his No. 1 priority is striking a deal with the Festival du nouveau cinema, he says. However, his counterparts at the

In Focus

rival festival say they have no plans for negotiations. Details, Page D1

Leclerc TV bio 'a horror'

A four-part miniseries on the life of the late Felix Leclerc has stirred a wasp's nest of complaints, especially from the family of the late singer, who is revered in Quebec. Leclerc's daughter has called it "a horror." Details, Page D4

Sports

Barker knew it was time

Lloyd Barker retires after 15 years as a pro soccer player, 10 with the Impact. The fan favourite says he's healthy enough to continue playing, but knows it's time to move on. Details, Page C1

Injury ends Al's career

Alouettes' fullback Bruno Heppell knew his season was over that fateful day last September when his leg hyperextended beneath a pile of Montreal and Winnipeg players. But little could he imagine his career, too, was finished. Details, Page C1

Graphic

Photo: (Lloyd Barker retires after 15 years as a pro soccer player);

Photo: (Bubbly return to Earth)

Load-Date: March 4, 2005

End of Document

Tiger tales

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

January 21, 2005 Friday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A17

Length: 810 words

Byline: National Post

Body

Earlier this week, we criticized the federal government's indefensible reluctance to place the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) -- better known as the Tamil Tigers -- on its list of prohibited terrorist groups. As we noted, the group has cast Sri Lanka into a lengthy civil war that has killed 60,000 people, many by suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks. Since much of the Tigers' funding comes from Tamils living in Canada, the move to outlaw the LTTE would be more than mere symbolism: It would save lives.

So when federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler met with this editorial board on Wednesday, the topic was at the top of our agenda. Our meeting began in promising fashion: Mr. Cotler spoke in high-flown terms about a "principled" approach to fighting terrorism, explaining the importance of "stat[ing] clearly, unequivocally that terrorism constitutes an assault on the security of a democracy and on the fundamental rights of its inhabitants."

Unfortunately, this commitment to principle seemed to evaporate when the discussion turned to the Tigers.

First, Mr. Cotler tried to carve out an exception to his "principled" strategy for fighting terror -- which he described as "a more contextualized approach."

"There has begun between the parties a peace process in which statements have been made by the Sri Lankan government almost suspending their judgment regarding the whole question of whether the Tamil organizations ... qualify for terrorism purposes," the Justice Minister explained. For Canada to render any definitive judgment about the Tigers, he concluded, would be wrong.

That is a strange argument for a veteran law professor to make. Any law student knows that a contract is void if a party enters into it under duress. Why should we accord legitimacy to the Tigers merely because their campaign of slaughter has forced the government of Sri Lanka to enter into negotiations?

Mr. Cotler went on to make an even stranger argument: that it may be too early to tell whether the Tigers actually qualify as a terrorist group. "You don't want to go ahead and engage in any kind of determination of an entity as being a terrorist entity unless you've got clear and unequivocal evidence," he said. But the Tigers' brutal campaign has been going on for more than two decades. Those who have lost family in the group's pre-dawn raids on Sri Lankan villages, in which Tigers slaughtered innocent women and children, might be intrigued to learn of this evidentiary shortfall.

Tiger tales

In trying to explain the government's reluctance to outlaw the Tigers without explicitly stating the obvious -- that it results from political pressures imposed by Tamil-Canadian constituencies in Canada's urban ridings -- Mr. Cotler dug himself an even deeper hole. On one hand, he claimed: "I'm not saying that because the preponderance of Sri Lankans in Canada happen to be Tamil, therefore we're not paying sufficient attention to [Sri Lanka's] Sinhalese [majority]." But in another breath, he candidly acknowledged: "The Sri Lankans who are living in Canada are ... Tamils, for the most part, I'd say about 80%. And you know, Toronto I think has the largest number of Tamils in the Tamil diaspora than anywhere else outside of Sri Lanka, so we've got to be very careful just in terms of our own relationships."

As far as we can decipher, Mr. Cotler's point is that political considerations are never on the government's mind when such important decisions are being made -- except when they are.

The low point came when Mr. Cotler tried to suggest that outlawing the Tigers might somehow represent a racist smear on all Tamils. In a statement of the obvious, he opined: "You've got to be very careful in terms of criminalization because you don't want to engage in any kind of stereotypical indictment of a community as a whole." But, of course, no one is proposing to persecute Tamil-Canadians. Indeed, it is largely for their benefit that Tiger fundraising should be outlawed, since it would help end the extortionate tactics used by the Tigers' Canadian bagmen to raise funds.

We have no illusions about what is happening. Mr. Cotler has a long-standing record of opposing terrorism in all its forms. We are sure that, if it were up to him, the Tigers would be placed alongside Hamas and Hezbollah on the government's list of prohibited groups. But the Justice Minister has been forced to accommodate the crass reality of electoral politics -- in particular, the Liberals' need to pander to ethnic constituencies, even when the values espoused by their most militant leaders clash head-on with hallowed Canadian "principles."

Mr. Cotler must do all in his power to convince his colleagues that this is one instance in which there are bigger issues at play than a few ethnic votes. If they don't agree, perhaps he should rethink whether this is a Cabinet he belongs in.

Load-Date: January 21, 2005

Castro's Acolyte

New York Sun (Archive)

September 1, 2005 Thursday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 8

Length: 820 words

Byline: Eli Lake

Body

Every week, the leader of Venezuela goes on state-run television for informal chats with his people. These programs, which can run for hours, often involve Hugo Chavez denigrating his political opponents, who thanks to a media law enacted earlier this year usually cannot respond in kind. In January 2004, Mr. Chavez used his program to call Condoleezza Rice a "true illiterate," and boasted that he could sexually seduce the former Stanford University dean - an insult that has yet to be met with a peep of protest from those having a nervous breakdown over the demarche of the Reverend Pat Robertson.

There is certainly a difference between endorsing a coup and slurring a high official in a foreign government, but then again, there is also a difference between a television minister and a head of state. Unlike Rev. Robertson, Mr. Chavez actually tried some time ago to topple an elected government. In February 1992, actually, he led a group of military officers who tried and failed to unseat the government of President Perez. While Rev. Robertson's recommendation was discarded by the Bush administration, Mr. Chavez has never backed off of his transgressions. Indeed, he's seeking an emergency summit to repair his country's relationship with America.

It's another case of how demagogues need external enemies to distract their people from their policies at home, particularly when, in the case of Mr. Chavez, he's itching to join the axis of evil. In 2000, Mr. Chavez became the first world leader to break formally the United Nations sanctions against Iraq and personally visit Saddam Hussein, expressing solidarity with a man we now know was deliberately importing rotten food and spoiled medicine through the oil-for-food program. Venezuela's president has also signed a strategic agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran and has said publicly that the country has a right to the nuclear fuel it enriched for so many years behind the back of the United Nations' atomic watchdog. Hezbollah, one of the most feared terrorist organizations, is said to have established official offices in Caracas.

All of this foreign policy posturing - combined with Mr. Chavez's praise for Castro - invites the question: If Mr. Chavez really wants to stick it to the gringos, why doesn't he just stop selling his oil to them? The answer is he can't. To stop exporting petroleum here would ruin Venezuela's economy faster than it would ruin ours. And despite the recent trade agreements Caracas has signed with Beijing, it makes no economic sense for him to send barrels of his sweet crude halfway around the world when the American refineries off the Gulf of Mexico have been refining the stuff for decades without problems. This says nothing of the loss the Venezuelans would suffer from having to shutter their Citgo gas stations, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Venezuelan national oil company.

No one seems more aware of these facts than Mr. Chavez, who has pursued an energy policy at odds with his Bolivarian rhetoric. As the Washington Post's Marcela Sanchez noted on August 25, Venezuela recently agreed to cover neighboring Ecuador's oil export commitments to America after a strike nearly shut down the country's wells.

Castro's Acolyte

In 2003, Mr. Chavez awarded Exxon-Mobil, Chevron, and Conoco-Phillips exclusive contracts to develop 27,000 square kilometers of the Deltana gas fields. Mr. Chavez has been so good for American oil companies that one of their lobbyists, Jack Kemp, met in 2003 with the Wall Street Journal editorial board to persuade them to soften their line on the Venezuelan president.

At the time, the editorialists at the Journal rebuked the former GOP vice presidential candidate, as well they should have. While Mr. Chavez is in no position to punish the American people economically, he has waged a steady political war against his opposition. After sacking the board of his state-run oil company, PDVSA, Mr. Chavez closed newspapers and ordered his military to use violence in dispersing demonstrations that arose from a general strike in the fall of 2002.

Since then, he has stacked his country's supreme court with loyalists that have allowed him to ram through a press law that makes it illegal to corrupt his country's youth and slander the president. In November, a Venezuelan judge began hearing charges against Maria Corina Machado, the head of Sumate, one of the civic groups responsible for publicizing a referendum on the Chavez presidency last year that ultimately failed. Ms. Machado is being charged with treason because her organization received \$31,000 from the National Endowment for Democracy.

Sadly, Rev. Robertson's loose talk has distracted the world from this all-too-real story in Venezuela. The best course for the president would be to ignore the empty threats and overtures of the Venezuelan demagogue and never forget brave women like Ms. Machado, who suffer the most under his reign.

Load-Date: September 6, 2005

End of Document

Murderers are not martyrs - Terror in London

Weekend Australian

July 16, 2005 Saturday All-round Country Edition

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Section: WORLD; Inquirer; Pg. 29

Length: 853 words

Byline: Abdullah Saeed

Body

Islam needs to get its true message across to those who might be tempted to follow self-described jihadists, writes Abdullah Saeed

THE recent London bombings, and the possibility of them having been perpetrated by militant Muslim suicide bombers, is another reminder of the dangers of religious fanaticism. Many of us are baffled by what appears to be an unstoppable supply of would-be suicide bombers.

These events have raised significant and difficult questions for mainstream Muslims. Why have these young people, who are born and bred in Western countries, turned against their own societies, mercilessly killing, maiming and causing unspeakable horrors? What is the ideology that drives such people towards these violent actions? And is there an Islamic view on suicide bombings?

MATP

There is a long history of suicide being used for military-political purposes, whether it was the Japanese kamikaze pilots or the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka. Among Muslims it emerged in the 1980s when Hezbollah in Lebanon used suicide bombers against its enemies. Gradually it came to be accepted in other struggles, in Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir and Iraq.

Militants who have adopted this tactic argue that "martyrdom" (they do not use the term "suicide") is perfectly legitimate. The tactic has, frighteningly, been extended from war zones to regions that are not directly involved in any specific conflict, as was the case with 9/11, Bali, Jakarta, Madrid and now London.

In Islamic law and ethics, suicide is considered a grave sin. It is related to the idea that life is a precious gift from God; one does not own one's soul. It is simply loaned on trust from God. Therefore, it is only God who can take away this trust.

On many occasions the Koran states in no uncertain terms that human life is sacred: "Do not take life which God has made sacred except in the course of justice," the Koran says. It also says: "Do not kill yourselves", meaning do not commit suicide. The Prophet Mohammed specifically prohibited suicide in no uncertain terms. He also made the point that anyone who commits suicide will be eternally condemned to hellfire.

Based on this religious guidance, Muslims almost universally have held strongly to the view that suicide in all its forms is a grave sin and should not be accepted under any circumstances. Until recently, there has been virtually no disagreement among Muslims on the issue. The belief that someone who commits suicide would not enter

Murderers are not martyrs - Terror in London

paradise and would be eternally condemned to hell had been so dominant that until recently suicide was considered unthinkable among Muslims.

If killing oneself is viewed with horror, it is even more horrendous to kill civilians as part of the destructive act of suicide bombing. Killing another innocent human being deliberately is murder. The Koran says if one kills another human being unjustly, it is as grave a sin as killing all of humanity.

Even in the case of war, the Prophet Mohammed gave clear instructions to Muslims that noncombatants should not be targeted. He included in this category women, children and people not directly involved in fighting. Today's suicide bombers have conveniently ignored all such instructions.

In the late 20th century, militant Muslims reinterpreted classical Islamic concepts of jihad, martyrdom and the prohibition of suicide. They have relied on a selective reading of some religious texts and the views of certain marginal scholars. They went against the widely held mainstream views on suicide to endorse a violent struggle that targeted innocent civilians.

This militant reinterpretation of the Islamic concept of jihad has been challenged by a wide range of Muslim scholars across the world, particularly in relation to suicide bombings that target civilians.

Muslim scholars and leaders of all persuasions have rallied against this abhorrent trend. For instance, the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, Sheik Abdul Aziz al-Sheik, is on record as saying that Islam forbids suicide terrorist attacks. This was reinforced by Sheik Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi, the head of Egypt's Al-Azhar University, who declared that Islamic law "rejects all attempts on human life" and that he condemns "all attacks on civilians".

In our region these calls have been no less significant. In December 2003, Indonesia's highest Islamic authority, the Ulama Council, declared terrorism and suicide bombings illegal under Islamic law. Some Muslim scholars have gone so far as to declare that a person who commits suicide is not a Muslim.

Mainstream Muslims in Western countries in particular have consistently raised their voices against suicide bombing. For these Muslims, who also suffer the consequences of the militants' violence, it is vital to reinforce the message that Islam prohibits suicide in any form. Mainstream Muslim thinkers, scholars and community leaders are the most important support in countering extremist interpretations, but they in turn need the moral and practical support of all sectors of society.

Professor Abdullah Saeed is the director of the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Islam at the University of Melbourne.

Load-Date: July 15, 2005

2 tragedies show superpowers' lack of wisdom

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

October 28, 2003, Tuesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: OPINION;

Length: 818 words

Byline: Georgie Anne Geyer

Body

WASHINGTON -- Does it ever occur to us to consider the anniversaries of tragedies we mark -- or in some ways, even celebrate? Do we notice how dramatically they outrank anniversaries of our victories?

This week we remembered two events that have a great deal to tell us about war and peace, good and evil, and terrorism and humiliation in our time.

The first was the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the U.S. Marine headquarters at Beirut International Airport. On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 Americans were killed by Arab militiamen in a truck bombing and then by artillery from above. In only a few minutes, the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit lost almost a quarter of its men ashore.

The horror was palpable, as body after body was removed from the slaughter. The Marines were there alongside other foreigners as peacekeepers during the chaos following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the strengthening of the Syrian-supported Hezbollah movement. But lessons about power -- particularly about asymmetric power -- should have been learned there.

It should have been ineluctably clear that the Marines had been made sitting ducks. Beirut was a classic city of militiamen, guerrilla fighters and conspirators huddled in the back alleys ready to strike with knives and car bombs against the most modern military technology (that's "asymmetric" warfare). Our soldiers had been positioned, with an almost innocent disregard for human reality, right out in the open.

It took only one desperate man willing to lose his life. It was so easy. And it gave America one of those first total losses whose anniversaries we can't forget.

Surely some things were learned from the Beirut tragedy. In Iraq, American soldiers are kept in smaller groups, buildings are carefully guarded, and our soldiers are (at least on paper) trained in guerrilla tactics, history and mentality.

And yet, the American presence in Iraq is seen by much of the Arab world in the same way we were seen in Lebanon: We are the interlopers, on Israel's side and against justice for the Palestinians.

We are also almost equally isolated from the people. In Beirut, the American base was out in the open, naked to irregular power; in Baghdad, our troops and diplomats live in huge, highly protected compounds; their major task, as arms inspector David Kay has put it, is to "keep Iraqis away from them."

2 tragedies show superpowers' lack of wisdom

The other tragic event marked this week was the first anniversary of the takeover of Moscow's Dubrovka Theatre, also on Oct. 23, by militants from Russia's southern Caucasus Chechen region. The area has been virtually destroyed by civil war between separatist Chechens and unbending Russians since the mid-1990s, and the Chechen terrorists who seized the theater said their purpose was to force negotiations, and then independence.

Two weeks ago, I saw a remarkable documentary, "Terror in Moscow," which has been playing on HBO and consists entirely of actual shots made within the beleaguered theater.

One survivor recalled afterward: "I never believed people had premonitions of death, but I saw it all there. The eyes were vacant. They knew it already, they were gone already."

To which one of the Chechen terrorist women, filmed during the siege, voicing her people's desperation at the destruction of their community (they had been deported by Stalin to the Far East in earlier decades, their numbers ravaged), cries out: "This is because there is no pity for us."

Finally, Russian Special Services stormed the theater, using an untried and untested anesthetic drug. At least 192 civilians died, almost all of them because of lack of medical treatment, while all of the 40 or so Chechens were one by one shot dead, leaving no one to tell the tale.

Dmitki Simes, head of the Nixon Center and one of our finest Russian specialists, queried Russian authorities afterward:

Why were they not better prepared for the deadly results of the anesthetic gas? Because they had never used it before, had never tested it. Why weren't there enough ambulances to save the dying? Because they did not want the entire city to know they were planning a military operation.

Why did they deliberately kill all the Chechens, wiping out the intelligence they might have gained? Because these people wanted to humiliate the Russian state -- and they could not allow that.

These two tragic anniversaries, divided by years yet falling strangely on the same day, tell us something about the lack of wisdom of two superpowers. They tell us that each first used military means to deal with a problem that was multifaceted, complex and demanding of sophisticated responses. Questions of justice did not enter into their calculations, and the idea of transforming the nature of each situation through understanding its core truth was not considered.

And so, we mark these anniversaries; and Palestine is more violent than ever, and Chechnya, more desperate.

Universal Press Syndicate

Load-Date: October 28, 2003

WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 20, 2005 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

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Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Last week I had planned to write a column about Sinn Fein, the political front organization for the Irish Republican Army, whose leaders have recently been linked to acts of murder and grand larceny. I chose the subject because I wrote often about the IRA while living in Britain in the 1990s, because I've worked as a reporter in Belfast, because it's timely -- it was the week of St. Patrick's Day -- and because there might be lessons in the story for Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist groups that may or may not be able to make the transition to democratic politics as well.

These thoughts arose, in other words, out of work I've done as a journalist and columnist for nearly 20 years. But last week I discovered that I am not just an ordinary journalist or an ordinary columnist. No. I am a token.

That, at any rate, is what I conclude from the bumper crop of articles, columns and blogs that have pointed to the dearth of women on op-ed pages. Several have pointed out that I am, at the moment, The Washington Post's only regular female columnist. This was not the case when I moved here, just over two years ago. At that time both Mary McGrory, a fixture for several decades, and Marjorie Williams, a witty and accomplished journalist, were writing regularly as well. By tragic coincidence, both died in the past year.

Possibly because I see so many excellent women around me at the newspaper, possibly because so many of the Post's best-known journalists are women, possibly because I've never thought of myself as a "female journalist" in any case, I hadn't felt especially lonely. But now that I know -- according to widely cited statistics, which I cannot verify -- that only 10.4 percent of articles on my newspaper's op-ed page in the first two months of this year were written by women, 16.9 percent of the New York Times' op-ed articles were by women and 19.5 percent of the Los Angeles Times' op-eds were by women, lonely is how I feel. Or perhaps the right phrase is "self-conscious and vaguely embarrassed."

This conversation was sparked, as media junkies will know, by a bizarre attack launched on Michael Kinsley, now the editorial and opinion editor of the Los Angeles Times, by Susan Estrich, a self-styled feminist. In a ranting, raving series of e-mails last month, all of which were leaked, naturally, Estrich accused Kinsley of failing to print enough articles by women, most notably herself, and of resorting instead to the use of articles by men, as well as by women who don't count as women because they don't write with "women's voices."

Here I declare an interest: Michael Kinsley hired me to write an op-ed column when he was the editor of the online magazine Slate. As for Estrich, I don't know much about her at all, except that she's just launched a conversation that is seriously bad for female columnists and writers.

WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

None of the ones I know -- and, yes, I conducted an informal survey -- want to think of themselves as beans to be counted, or as "female journalists" with a special obligation to write about "women's issues." Most of them got where they are by having clear views, knowing their subjects, writing well and learning to ignore the ad hominem attacks that go with the job. But now, thanks to Estrich, every woman who gets her article accepted will have to wonder whether it was her knowledge of Irish politics, her willingness to court controversy or just her gender that won the editor over.

This is a storm in the media teacup, but it has echoes in universities, corporations and beyond.

I am told, for example, that there is pressure at Harvard Law School, and at other law schools, to ensure that at least half the students chosen for the law review are women. Quite frankly, it's hard to think of anything that would do more damage to aspiring female lawyers. Neither they nor their prospective employers will ever know whether they got there as part of a quota or on their own merits. There's nothing wrong with a general conversation about how women can be helped to succeed in law school or taught not to fear having strong opinions. But trust me, in none of these contexts do you want to start calculating percentages.

In the paragraph I have remaining (this, girls, is truly the hardest thing about newspaper columns: making the idea fit the space) I'm not going to discuss the thorny question of whether some affirmative action policies do some good, of whether newspapers matter anymore anyway, or even return to the subject of Sinn Fein. Those are complex, gender-neutral issues, and I've now used up my allotted weekly slot on a "women's issue" instead. Happy, Susan Estrich?

Notes

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist (applebaumanne@yahoo.com).

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End of Document

**Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance**

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JUNE 21, 2004 Monday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 738 words

Body

In the Nation

Green Party's convention

to ponder Nader candidacy

* The Green Party holds its presidential convention in Milwaukee this week to decide whether to field a candidate or go without one and endorse the independent bid of Ralph Nader, who headed its White House ticket in 2000. Nader is not seeking the Green nomination this time, and it is unlikely he will attend the convention that begins Wednesday, but he is seeking the party's endorsement. David Cobb, a California lawyer, is seeking the party's nomination.

Study: Few women over 40

get yearly mammograms

* After more than a decade of urging by doctors that women over 40 should receive mammograms yearly, few do so, according to a study appearing today on the Web site of Cancer, a journal of the American Cancer Society. Six percent of women who received a mammogram in 1992 received mammograms yearly for the next 10 years, according to the study of 72,417 women of all ages at Massachusetts General Hospital, the largest look at mammography to date. The society recommends that women 40 and older get a mammogram and a breast exam yearly.

Chicago crime rate down;

police credit new tactics

* Chicago, which had more homicides than any other U.S. city in 2003, is reporting a sharp drop in homicides after putting new anti-crime strategies in place. Police say that 166 people were homicide victims from January through May of this year - down 30 percent from the 236 homicides reported in the first five months of 2003. Police Superintendent Philip Cline said one of the most effective new strategies appeared to be "saturation patrols" by officers assigned to the most violence-prone neighborhoods of the city.

News in Brief

Bodies that washed ashore

identified as father, 2 sons

* A father and two sons missing from Chicago were identified yesterday as the people whose bodies washed ashore on Lake Michigan, bound together by nylon rope and tied to bags filled with sand, police in Pleasant Prairie, Wis., said. The victims, last seen May 6, were identified as Kevin L. Amde, 45; Davinci Amde, 6; and Tesla E. Amde, 3. Their deaths are being investigated as homicides, police said.

Pickup in wrong lane kills

5 on way to family reunion

* A pickup truck traveling in the wrong lane on Interstate 57 in southern Illinois slammed into a car filled with people on their way to a family reunion Saturday, killing five of the six people inside. The sixth occupant of the car - a boy about 4 years old - and the driver of the truck were seriously injured, police said. The dead were identified as Chantel Mason, 25, Tonia Conley, 30, Unique Harris, 23, Veleka Fleming, 27, and Derrion Sutton, 7, all of the Milwaukee area.

In the World

Algerian troops kill a top

al-Qaeda sympathizer

* Algerian troops killed the leader of a group who had sought to link his movement to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terror network, the military said yesterday. Last week's death of Nabil Sahraoui, head of the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, marked a major victory for Algerian government efforts to suppress Islamic violence. He and three of his lieutenants were killed during a "vast antiterrorist operation," the military said.

Australian police arrest 9

in decades-old abuse case

* Australian police investigating decades-old allegations of child sex abuse in the Anglican Church in South Australia state arrested nine men yesterday, including two former ministers, a former surfing coach and welfare workers. More arrests were expected, police said.

Count confirms reelection

for Philippine president

* Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo won a new term in office, according to a final election count announced yesterday. The tally from the May 10 election said Arroyo defeated film star Fernando Poe Jr. by about a million votes. The opposition said its claims of electoral fraud were ignored and vowed to keep fighting.

Israeli planes attack site

in Lebanon after shelling

* Israeli warplanes attacked a suspected Hezbollah outpost in southern Lebanon yesterday after the guerrilla group fired anti-aircraft shells at an army base in northern Israel, the army said. The army said it destroyed the outpost. There were no reports of casualties.

Georgian province election

seen backing central rule

* Voters in Georgia's autonomous province of Adzharia chose new legislators yesterday in parliamentary elections. The vote was expected to give the central government greater control over the once-defiant region.

Graphic

PHOTO;

GREG BAKER, Associated Press

The Great Wall of China has become a great preservation project of late. Workers were rebuilding a dilapidated section of the ancient site yesterday at Huanghuacheng, north of Beijing. In addition to reconstruction work on parts that have been crumbling for years, officials have banned hiking on unrestored sections.

Load-Date: August 26, 2005

End of Document

Spectre of Nam rises with death toll: The last time U.S. troops had a two-week loss like this one in Iraq was during Vietnam War

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 18, 2004 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: Insight; Pg. D1 / BREAK

Length: 679 words

Byline: DREW BROWN

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

With fighting in Iraq now at its worst, the number of U.S. troops killed by enemy fire has reached the highest level since the Vietnam War.

The first half of April has been the bloodiest period so far for U.S. troops in Iraq. There were 87 deaths by hostile fire in the first 15 days of this month, more than in the opening two weeks of the "shock and awe" invasion, when 82 Americans were killed in action.

"This has been some pretty intense fighting," said David Segal, director of the University of Maryland's Centre for Research on Military Organization. "We're looking at what happened during the major battles of Vietnam."
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The last time U.S. troops experienced a two-week loss such as this one in Iraq was October 1971, two years before U.S. ground involvement ended in Vietnam.

There are 135,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. Nearly 700 American troops have died since the beginning of the war. As of Friday, 493 had been killed by hostile fire.

The Vietnam War started with a slower death rate. The United States had been involved in Vietnam for six years before total fatalities surpassed 500 in 1965, the year President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a massive buildup of forces. There were 20,000 troops in Vietnam by the end of 1964. There were more than 200,000 a year later.

By the end of 1966, U.S. combat deaths in Vietnam had reached 3,910. By 1968, the peak of U.S. involvement, there were more than 500,000 troops in the country. During the same two-week period of April that year, 752 U.S. soldiers died, according to a search of records kept by the National Archives.

U.S. officials say that comparisons with Vietnam are invalid and reject the idea that Iraq has become a quagmire.

But the two-front battle that U.S. troops have been waging against Sunni and Shiite insurgents for the past two weeks is the most widespread resistance U.S. forces have faced since the war in Iraq began.

Senior U.S. officials insist the current fighting is only a "spike" and not indicative of a widening war.

On Thursday, General Richard B. Myers, chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the current fighting as a "symptom of the success" U.S. forces are having in Iraq.

Spectre of Nam rises with death toll: The last time U.S. troops had a two-week loss like this one in Iraq was during Vietnam War

"The sole intent" of the insurgents is to stop Iraq's transition to self-governance and democracy, he said.

U.S. Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday that the death toll was worse than he had expected a year ago.

He also announced that more than 20,000 troops, mostly from the 1st Armored Division, would remain in Iraq for three more months to deal with the insurgency instead of coming home after a year of duty.

Those killed represent a wide range of military specialties. Truck drivers and clerks are getting killed just as often, if not more often, than infantrymen and other combat specialties. That's an indication of the kind of battlefield environment in Iraq.

"Even Vietnam was a more conventional war than this," said Charles Moskos, a sociologist with Northwestern University who specializes in military issues and worked as a correspondent in the Vietnam War. "Here in Iraq, there are no battle lines. It's all over."

The average age of a casualty in Vietnam was 20 years old. The average age of a casualty in Iraq is nearly 27. The youngest American soldier killed in Iraq was 18; the oldest was 55.

More than 12 per cent of those killed have come from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, which helps explain why the average age of the dead is higher.

"Reserve components tend to be older," Moskos said.

In a sharp departure from previous wars, 18 women have been killed, 12 of them by hostile fire, including a civilian lawyer working for the Army.

Since Vietnam, there was one attack on U.S. forces that inflicted a higher death toll than anything experienced since: 241 servicemen were killed in Beirut in 1983 when a suicide bomber from the Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah drove a truck full of explosives into their barracks.

Many experts and historians cite that attack as the beginning of America's war with Islamic terrorists.

Graphic

Photo: CHIP EAST, REUTERS; Soldier Adrian Felder holds the U.S. flag that was draped over the coffin of his wife, Specialist Tyranna Felder, in Bridgeport, Conn., Thursday. Tyranna Felder was killed in Iraq while assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Louis, Wash. A roadside bomb exploded near the vehicle she was riding in outside Balad.

Load-Date: April 18, 2004

Secular state's fragility on display

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

January 29, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Forum; Barry Cooper; Pg. A14; Column

Length: 846 words

Byline: Barry Cooper

Body

The French government has proposed the banning of "ostentatious" religious symbols in state-supported schools and hospitals. President Jacques Chirac allowed that only "discreet" religious symbols would be acceptable.

Last fall, two school girls in suburban Paris were sent home for wearing the hijab, or Muslim head scarf, and a couple of weeks ago, the streets of Paris and Marseilles, as well as of several other French cities, were venues for marches protesting the French proposal. In Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa, the French consulates and embassy were also scenes of protest.

Special to The StarPhoenix

Most of the marchers were Muslim, and most of the Muslims were women. They were objecting to the notion that the hijab was an ostentatious religious symbol. Equally ostentatious, according to the French government, are Jewish yarmulkes or skull caps worn by some Jewish men, and pectoral crosses worn by some Christians.

Indeed, Luc Ferry, the minister of education, explained that "ostentatious" religious beards might also be prohibited. Nothing official has yet been announced regarding Sikh turbans, although a thoughtful French Deputy suggested that hair nets might provide a useful alternative.

The French protesters tried to make two different and somewhat antithetical points. On the one hand, the women were claiming a right to choose to wear whatever they wanted. This is a position that makes perfect sense in liberal western democracies. It even looks like feminist empowerment: some of the Parisians said they would start wearing the hijab simply in order to defy the government.

By this argument, wearing a hijab, a yarmulke, a cross or a turban looks like the free act of a free citizen, akin in principle to piercing your nose, getting a tattoo on your rear end, or sporting two-tone loafers.

At the same time, however, Muslim religious leaders explained that the hijab was also an indication of female modesty. Now, modesty is a becoming and reasonable virtue that all human beings, whatever their religion, can strive to actualize. So far as discussion over the hijab was concerned however, advocates were clearly of the opinion that wearing it was primarily the result of a religious injunction.

Some Christian and Jewish communities, even some Buddhists, proclaim similar teachings concerning modesty. But a religious injunction coming from religious authorities can never just be a matter of individual virtue or free choice. In one way or another, therefore, there is considerable disingenuousness involved.

For the past several years, and notably since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the French government has been trying strenuously to integrate the five-million strong Muslim community into French society. It is undertaking

Secular state's fragility on display

this effort in order both to marginalize militant extremists and to prevent an anti-Muslim backlash from non-Muslim citizens.

Its concerns are genuine. Consider: the Paris march was largely organized by the Muslim Party of France, a radical group with links to **Hezbollah**. A day after the march, the parked car of Aissa Dermouche was blown up in Nantes. Dermouche is the first foreign-born and Muslim citizen in French history to be appointed to the office of Prefect.

There is speculation in the French press that he was targeted either by Islamists who wished to kill him because they considered him a stooge of the French government and an apostate to his religion, or by equally radical anti-immigration xenophobes.

Looming behind these events, which could have happened in Germany or Italy as well, are historical memories peculiar only to France.

Long before the French Revolution erupted during the closing decade of the 18th century, French intellectuals argued that, in the name of Universal Reason, the French state must be an anti-Christian organization. The French came to call it "laicism," but it was as much a religious movement as was the Church they opposed without compromise.

During the Revolution the French tried unsuccessfully to institute the Cult of Reason, which was followed by worship of the Great Being in the newly liberated Cathedral of Notre Dame. From the mid-18th century to the present, France has been the classic country of the secular counter-church.

Jean-Marie Cardinal Lustiger, Archbishop of Paris, warned that the new law "risks reopening a religious war," but at the same time the popularity of President Chirac took a big jump in the polls.

These concerns and ambiguities express familiar themes in French history. Even the minor echo of the French protest in the streets of Montreal is a reflection of the religious history of that province. And as for the rest of the country, which is to a great extent unconscious of the distinction between indifference and toleration, the protests against ostentatious religious symbols are a reminder of the fragility of the liberal compromise with religious authority.

Cooper is a professor of political science at the University of Calgary and director of the Alberta Policy Research Centre of the Fraser Institute.

Load-Date: January 29, 2004

***Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ;
Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance***

The International Herald Tribune

October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 763 words

Byline: Jodi Wilgoren And David E. Sanger

Dateline: DAVIE, Florida:

Body

President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry spent the weekend stumping through states that will most likely decide the election, using increasingly acerbic language as they tried to capitalize on what they saw as the other's weak spots in a second debate that did not appear to give either man a clear edge.

First in Iowa, then at a sprawling rally in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Bush repeated his refrain from Friday night's matchup, saying that Kerry "can run but cannot hide" from his legislative record. The crowd began to shout the phrase back at the president, who declared "I could barely contain myself" when Kerry said he had never changed positions on Iraq.

"He must think we're on a different planet," Bush said, to huge cheers.
The New York Times

At an afternoon rally in the Cleveland suburb of Elyria, Ohio, before flying to Florida, Kerry asserted that Bush's stubborn unwillingness to acknowledge errors of judgment prevented him from fixing them, starting in Iraq.

"Do we want leadership, as it is called, that can't face reality and admit mistakes, or do we want leadership that sees the truth and tells the truth to the American people?" Kerry asked a crowd of more than 10,000. He was referring to Bush's vague response at the debate that he had "made some mistakes in appointing people," to a woman who had asked him to specify three mistakes of his administration.

"If George Bush can't see the problems, and he's not willing to admit the problems, and he can't talk to America about the problems, you can't lead America to solve the problems," Kerry said.

With about three weeks before Election Day, the battleground back-and-forth reflected the tension surrounding two campaigns that can sniff victory. Several national polls were showing the race a dead-heat before the second debate, and Republicans expressed confidence that Bush's improved performance on Friday would stem the slippage from his angrier effort in the first meeting.

But Democrats, buoyed by a week of developments that undercut Bush's claims of vigorous job growth and his main justification for invading Iraq, said they would not lose the momentum heading into the final debate, in Tempe, Arizona, on Wednesday.

Kerry and Bush sharpen barbs ; Candidates attempt to capitalize on debate performance

An Associated Press survey published Friday, just before the debate, showed Kerry leading Bush by 50 percent to 46 percent, reversing Bush's 52 percent to 45 percent lead from two weeks before. The margin of error was three percentage points. Time magazine has the two deadlocked at 45 percent, with Bush having lost a six-point lead, and Kerry with a strong advantage among women.

"A week ago we were dead," one top Democrat said in a hotel bar in St. Louis before the debate. "What a business we're in."

But Bush may have stopped declining in the polls, or so his small army of aides and spinners argued as they followed him across the crucial states. An instant ABC poll of viewers of the Friday debate found that 44 percent said Kerry had won and 41 percent gave the advantage to Bush, with 13 percent saying it was a tie. The margin of error was three percentage points. In the first debate, viewers surveyed by ABC favored Kerry by a nine-point margin, 45 percent to 36 percent.

Starting with a breakfast in St. Louis on Saturday morning, then moving on to Iowa and Minnesota -- states he lost by narrow margins four years ago -- Bush built on the critique of Kerry's Senate years that he began in the debate.

"Much as he tried to obscure it, on issue after issue, my opponent showed why he's earned the ranking, the most liberal member of the United States Senate," Bush said at the breakfast for Matt Blunt, the Republican candidate for governor of Missouri. "Senator Kerry was asked to look into the camera and promise he would not raise taxes for anyone who earns less than \$200,000 a year. The problem is, to keep that promise, he would have to break almost all of his other ones."

Here on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night, Kerry made an appeal to the heavily Jewish population, tacking onto his typical presentation a story about his visit to an Israeli air base and his aerial tour, saying the upside-down view during a loop in a small jet had given him a better understanding of the tiny country's vulnerabilities.

"Our job, Mr. President, is to hold those Arab countries accountable that still support terrorists -- Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Aksa Brigades," he shouted. "And I will not give one inch in our efforts to do that."

Jodi Wilgoren reported from Elyria, Ohio, and Davie, Florida, and David E. Sanger from Waterloo, Iowa, and Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Load-Date: October 11, 2004

Russia finds its own Black Magic Woman

University Wire

October 4, 2004 Monday

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Section: COLUMN

Length: 807 words

Byline: By Michael Greene, The Dartmouth Independent; **SOURCE:** Dartmouth College

Dateline: HANOVER, N.H.

Body

For all the horrors arising out of the recent hostage crisis in the Russian town of Belsan, perhaps most shocking for American observers has been the revelation that women were among the group of terrorists that took hold of the ill-fated Russian school. Despite the occasional female suicide bomber in the Middle East, the face of international terrorism has largely been a masculine one, with women playing the role of innocent victims, not the villains. But what would inspire a group of women to take up arms against their usual partners in victim-hood - children?

Most in the American press answer that these attacks amount to the violent response to the oppressive and often tyrannical tactics of Russian security forces in the restless region of Chechnya, a largely Muslim republic. With civil-war like conditions gripping Chechnya since the break-up of the Soviet Union, years of fighting between local rebel groups and the Russian military have left a plethora of so-called "Black Widows," women supposedly so enraged by the loss of their husbands to the conflict that they choose to take up arms not against the Russian government, but against the Russian people themselves.

This brand of terrorism, part political and part nihilistic seems plausible enough, but it simply does not mesh with the reality of these "Black Widows." According to the Russian press, most of these "Black Widows" have not lost their husbands to the Chechen conflict; rather, they are beholden to a master known as "Black Fatima." With her stringy, black hair and a hooked nose, "Black Fatima" looks a lot more like the Wicked Witch of the West than a terrorist mastermind, but then again, she's no average terrorists. While groups like Hezbollah and Al Qaeda promise religious salvation to their members, "Black Fatima" opts for a more forceful approach using drugs and hypnosis to send her "Black Widows" on suicide missions. According to Russian security forces, eye witness testimony corroborates their theory that this "Black Fatima" may be more than an urban legend. Survivors of "Black Widow" attacks claim that their attackers had wild and dazed eyes and many witnesses have cited the presence of a woman looking suspiciously like "Black Fatima" at the site of suicide bombings and hostage takings.

If this all sounds like some folk legend, it may well be. Clinging to their KGB past, Russian security forces have been notorious for their unreliability in the realm of public communications. Likewise, Russia's media is no beacon of journalistic impartiality. In fact, Russian President Vladimir Putin has recently drawn criticism for his abuse of the high-regulated media. It may not be 1962, but the days of state-controlled media are far from over in the former U.S.S.R. All this raises a significant level of suspicion with regards to Russia's portrayal of its fight with Chechen rebels. According to a recent National Public Radio report, some American and European media analysts fear that the Russian media is merely acting as the public relations arm of Russian security forces, creating a verifiable boogey-(wo)man in Russia's war on terror.

Russia finds its own Black Magic Woman

The necessity of such a clear symbol for evil takes on almost Wag the Dog proportions. This necessity stems from the moral ambiguity of Russia's struggle in Chechnya and related acts of terrorism. While few in the West explicitly argued that America deserved the horror of 9/11, the circumstances in Russia differ greatly. Putin's approach to Chechen calls for autonomy has been nothing short of pure despotism. Thus, many both inside and outside Russia question which party, the Russian government or the Chechen rebels, is the lesser of two evils. This creates a significant impediment to any intensification of the fight against rebel groups. Like America's war on terror, Russia's ability to fight relies on a clear distinction between good and evil. While Al Qaeda's attacks on 9/11 provided such clarity for most Americans, Russia has merely traded atrocious acts with the terrorists. By implanting an evident symbol of evil in the form of the witch-like "Black Fatima," the Russian media has created a far more simplistic moral equation for the Russian public.

Although such moral simplicity lends itself to waging an effective war on terror, in Russia's case it fails to reflect reality. A true terrorist master-mind or the Russian government's own boogey-man, "Black Fatima," offers encouragement and justification for those in the Kremlin who think only more violence in Chechnya can solve the region's troubles. While international terrorism presents the gravest challenge in the coming years, exploiting its horrors to promote tyranny only exacerbates the problem. For the sake of Russian stability, let's hope the Kremlin isn't following that road.

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Load-Date: October 4, 2004

REPLACING SADDAM WOULD HELP TRANSFORM THE ARAB WORLD

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 23, 2003 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 744 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

As the decision on Iraq approaches, I, like so many Americans, have had to ask myself: What do you really think? Today I explain why I think liberals under-appreciate the value of removing Saddam Hussein. And on Monday, I will explain why conservatives underappreciate the risks of doing so -- and how we should balance the two.

What liberals fail to recognize is that regime change in Iraq is not some distraction from the war on al-Qaida. That is a bogus argument. And simply because oil is also at stake in Iraq doesn't make it illegitimate either. Some things are right to do, even if Big Oil benefits.

Although President Bush has cast the war in Iraq as being about disarmament -- and that is legitimate -- disarmament is not the most important prize there. Regime change is the prize. Regime transformation in Iraq could make a valuable contribution to the war on terrorism, whether Saddam is ousted or enticed into exile.

Why? Because what really threatens open, Western, liberal societies today is not Saddam and his weapons per se. He is a twisted dictator who is deterrable through conventional means. Because Saddam loves life more than he hates us. What threatens Western societies today are not the deterrables, like Saddam, but the undeterrables -- the boys who did 9/11, who hate us more than they love life. It's these human missiles of mass destruction that could really destroy our open society.

So then the question is: What is the cement mixer that is churning out these undeterrables -- these angry, humiliated and often unemployed Muslim youth? That cement mixer is a collection of faltering Arab states, which, as the United Nations' Arab Human Development Report noted, have fallen so far behind the world that their combined GDP does not equal that of Spain. And the reason they have fallen behind can be traced to their lack of three things: freedom, modern education and women's empowerment.

If we don't help transform these Arab states -- which are also experiencing population explosions -- to create better governance, to build more open and productive economies, to empower their women and to develop responsible news media that won't blame all their ills on others, we will never begin to see the political, educational and religious reforms they need to shrink their output of undeterrables.

We have partners. Trust me, there is a part of every young Arab today that recoils at the idea of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, because of its colonial overtones. But there is a part of many young Arabs today that prays the United States will not only oust Saddam but all other Arab leaders as well.

REPLACING SADDAM WOULD HELP TRANSFORM THE ARAB WORLD

It is not unreasonable to believe that if the United States removed Saddam and helped Iraqis build not an overnight democracy but a more accountable, progressive and democratizing regime, it would have a transforming effect on the entire Arab world -- a region desperately in need of a progressive model that works.

And liberals need to take heed. Just by mobilizing for war against Iraq, America has sent this region a powerful message: We will not leave you alone anymore to play with matches, because the last time you did, we got burned. Just the threat of a U.S. attack has already prompted Hezbollah to be on its best behavior in Lebanon. And it has spurred Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to introduce a proposal for an "Arab Charter" of political and economic reform.

Let me sum up my argument with two of my favorite sayings. The first is by Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, who says: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." It is true of countries as well. Until the Arab peoples are given a real ownership stake in their countries -- a real voice in how they are run -- they will never wash them, never improve them as they should.

The second is an American Indian saying -- "If we don't turn around now, we just may get where we're going." The Arab world has been digging itself into a hole for a long time. If our generation simply helps it stop digging, possibly our grandchildren and its own will reap the benefits. But if we don't help the Arabs turn around now, they just may get where they're going -- a dead end where they will produce more and more undeterrables.

This is something liberals should care about -- because liberating the captive peoples of the Mideast is a virtue in itself and because in today's globalized world, if you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it will visit you.

Notes

Thomas L. Friedman is a syndicated columnist for The New York Times, specializing in foreign affairs.

Load-Date: January 23, 2003

**ISRAELIS SUSPECT AL-QAIDA IS TIED TO LATEST ATTACKS;
MISSILES FIRED AT AIRPLANE IN KENYA RAISE NEW FEARS AMONG
SECURITY OFFICIALS;
"ISRAEL FACES TERROR ALL OVER"**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

November 29, 2002 Friday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS ; Pg. A12

Length: 784 words

Byline: Greg Myre The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Jarred by three major terrorist attacks in just eight hours Thursday, Israel faced the prospect of expanding its fight with Arab militants to include Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The attacks involved:

- * A shooting spree by Palestinian gunmen in northern Israel.
- * A suicide bombing at an Israeli-owned hotel on Kenya's Indian Ocean coast.
- * A concurrent missile attack that narrowly missed a chartered Israeli tourist plane leaving Kenya from nearby Mombasa.

The attacks in Kenya pointed to the possibility of an al-Qaida assault because bin Laden has long promised a strike at Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tapped his nation's intelligence agency to investigate the east Africa attacks, with the government speculating that al-Qaida was responsible. The group has yet to be linked to any previous attack.

Former Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh said: "Israel faces terror all over the world. It's not just one front."

In two years of Mideast violence, Palestinian militants have carried out hundreds of bombings and shootings. Across the northern border, the Lebanese group **Hezbollah** periodically fires missiles over the frontier.

And Israel is gearing up for a potential barrage of Iraqi Scud missiles, as happened during the 1991 Gulf War, if the United States moves against Iraq. There are fears that this time, the warheads might carry chemical or biological agents.

The Israel intelligence agency, Mossad, has a long record of tracking terrorism suspects. For instance, Mossad hunted down and killed nearly all the Palestinians believed responsible for kidnapping and killing 11 Israelis at the Munich Olympics in 1972.

ISRAELIS SUSPECT AL-QAIDA IS TIED TO LATEST ATTACKS; MISSILES FIRED AT AIRPLANE IN KENYA RAISE NEW FEARS AMONG SECURITY OFFICIALS; " ISRAEL FACES TERROR ALL OVE....

Mossad also has bungled missions in recent years. But Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said after the latest assaults, "Our hand will reach them."

In an audiotape recording released this month, a man believed to be bin Laden accuses Israel of "bombing houses that shelter old people, women and children with U.S.-made aircraft in Palestine."

In response to decades of attacks, Israel developed elaborate security procedures. But they have failed to erase the country's vulnerability, either at home or abroad.

At Kenya's Paradise Hotel, the Israeli owners employ some 40 security guards, hotel officials said. Even so, three suicide bombers killed themselves and 12 people.

Most public places in Israel have security guards checking for guns and bombs. But on Thursday, two Palestinian gunmen entered a polling station in the northern town of Beit Shean and sprayed it with automatic weapons fire, killing five Israelis before they were themselves gunned down.

For many Israelis, the most worrisome development was the two missiles fired at an Arkia Airlines plane shortly after it lifted off from Mombasa's airport. The plane was carrying 271 passengers and crew.

Israel has feared such an attack for some time. Before Sneh quit recently as transportation minister, he had started a program to defend Israeli civilian planes against missiles.

The plan would equip Israeli civilian aircraft with flares similar to those used on warplanes. The flares confuse heat-seeking missiles fired from the ground.

"Technically there is such an ability, air force Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz said Thursday. "But it is not installed on most commercial aircraft, only on select ones."

At any rate, such measures would appear to offer limited protection at best.

Rafi Marek, the pilot on the Arkia plane, said he had been unaware that he was under attack, even after the missiles streaked by and shook the plane.

"I thought that it was the hit of a little bird," Marek said at a news conference after the plane arrived in Israel.

Protecting large, lumbering civilian airplanes from missiles is a complicated task, said Andrew Brookes, an aerospace analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London.

"It's not just a matter of installing flares on a plane," he said. "You need to have security people sanitizing the perimeter of the airport. The plane can't come in on a sedate approach. It has to make the kind of hard, tight landing that tears off the brakes. This is not the kind of thing people want to do when they're going on vacation."

Boaz Ganor of Israel's International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism said the appearance of missiles pointed to a new approach in the "evolution of terrorism."

In the 1960s and early 1970s, terrorist groups hijacked planes, which led to the introduction of metal detectors and sky marshals.

The 1980s and 1990s saw terrorists sneak bombs onto planes. But that has become more difficult with new detection equipment, Ganor said.

"Now, I think you'll see these groups use missiles to try to shoot down planes from the ground," Ganor said.

Notes

ISRAELIS SUSPECT AL-QAIDA IS TIED TO LATEST ATTACKS; MISSILES FIRED AT AIRPLANE IN KENYA
RAISE NEW FEARS AMONG SECURITY OFFICIALS; " ISRAEL FACES TERROR ALL OVE....

TERRORISTS IN KENYA TARGET ISRAELIS

Load-Date: November 29, 2002

End of Document

The dove patrolling on the hawk's wing: Israeli peacemaker Shimon Peres tells the Guardian that his warring fellow septuagenarians Sharon and Arafat are old enough to have gained wisdom

The Guardian (London)

April 7, 2001

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 16

Length: 1213 words

Byline: Ewen MacAskill in Tel Aviv

Body

The Israeli foreign minister and Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres is unapologetic that, having devoted so much of his life to the pursuit of peace, he has entered into a partnership with Ariel Sharon. The partnership is only a month old, and the question that will come to dominate Israeli and Palestinian politics is how long the dove and hawk can work together.

In an interview with the Guardian he justified his presence in the cabinet on the grounds that by being there he could exert a moderating influence on Mr Sharon.

"I think I can be effective," he said. "I am not there to add water to the soup. Sharon knows my views and I have not changed."

Regardless of the increasing violence, much of it being inflicted by his own government, Mr Peres is optimistic about the chance of peace.

When serious negotiations eventually began in the Middle East, he said, "You will be surprised how fast it (peace and economic growth) can be."

Throughout a blood-stained career Mr Sharon's instinct has been to resort to force, and events since he became prime minister a month ago suggest that little has changed.

Mr Peres disputed this. "I have known Sharon for 50 years. We did not agree politically, but we kept on a personal relationship. It is the first time he is becoming prime minister. I do not think he would like to wind up his term as prime minister having the country in flame and blood."

Had Mr Sharon changed?

"I think the situation has changed. I think also that age does not necessarily have a negative impact on people. Arafat, Sharon and myself are together 232 years. It is a lot of time. It must have some promise of wisdom and experience."

While Mr Sharon punishes the Palestinians with an economic blockade, rocket attacks and assassinations, it is Mr Peres's job to be the acceptable international face of the government and to open channels to the Palestinians.

The dove patrolling on the hawk's wing: Israeli peacemaker Shimon Peres tells the Guardian that his warring fellow septuagenarians Sharon and Arafat are old eno....

Symbols of peace

If Mr Sharon allows it, it will be through Mr Peres that peace negotiations will eventually resume.

He met his Palestinian counterpart in Athens on Wednesday, the first high-level contact between the two sides since Mr Sharon took office.

"After a long interruption, the mere meeting was a departure from the monopoly of guns," he said.

Mr Peres's office in a high-rise block in Tel Aviv is filled with symbols of peace: statues of women holding doves and olive branches; a buddha; and, in the most prominent spot of all, a blow-up of him signing the Oslo peace accord in 1993 with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

Mr Sharon described Oslo as appeasement. Mr Peres plays down the insult. "Politicians have a collection of so many expressions, some of them right, some of them wrong. I think this expression is a wrong expression."

Had it been vanity, at the age of 77, to seek power one more time?

He replied: "I am sure the person who said it is free of vanity." But he added: "It is not a competition of beauty, not even a competition of politicians. It is a very serious situation. If I shall be immodest - you can call it vanity - I will put whatever experience I have to use in order to reopen negotiations. I do not believe the problems can be resolved by force."

Mr Peres spoke to the third of the ageing trio, Mr Arafat, by phone a few weeks ago, and he remains in touch through intermediaries, but they have not yet met since he became foreign minister.

Mr Sharon has called Mr Arafat a terrorist, and the interior minister, Uzi Landau, called him a war criminal yesterday. But Mr Peres said: "We know each other quite well and we are very careful not to turn a disagreement into an insult."

He had no such qualms about insulting the Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad, the London-trained ophthalmologist who replaced his father as president last year and last month likened Israel in its treatment of the Palestinians to the Nazis.

Until last year Israel was hoping to negotiate a peace deal with Syria, but Mr Peres confirmed that there was little chance of pursuing that track in the near future.

"I am not saying it has no future, but there is no present," he said.

"Bashar looks like he studied ophthalmology in London, but his vision is even more short-sighted than his father's. To make a speech comparing Israel to the Nazis! For that, believe me, you should not waste your time in London."

Step by step

In his talks with the Palestinians in Athens, Mr Peres made it clear that he favoured an interim agreement, a step by step approach, rather than the all-embracing one that the previous prime minister, Ehud Barak, was seeking.

He offered to relax the economic embargo on the Palestinian territories in return for their cooperation in reducing violence. His vision is the creation of a vibrant economy in the Middle East embracing Israel and its Arab neighbours

The Palestinians pressed for international observers, from the UN or the EU, to give protection from Israeli soldiers and settlers. Mr Peres was scathing.

"We have doubts about what these observers will do. Will they be allowed to visit the clandestine headquarters of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hizbullah to see where the terror is being originated?"

The dove patrolling on the hawk's wing: Israeli peacemaker Shimon Peres tells the Guardian that his warring fellow septuagenarians Sharon and Arafat are old eno....

The only other peace plan around at present, put to the White House this week, is an initiative by Egypt and Jordan. Mr Peres ruled out any progress in that direction.

It was, he said, aimed at trying to put back on the table the final offer made this year by Mr Barak and Bill Clinton, an offer Mr Arafat had rejected.

"Once rejected, they no longer exist," Mr Peres said.

Did he rule out Israel simply leaving the West Bank and Gaza, an option considered but discarded by the previous government?

"The borders are very complicated. Time didn't stand still and what once was two eggs is now omelettes, which are hard to divide and organise."

There were other problems: the future of Jerusalem, the fate of the Palestinian refugees and the issue of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

He said he had extracted a promise from Mr Sharon that there would be no new settlements, though it was announced on Thursday that existing ones would be expanded, which, to the Palestinians, is just as bad.

France and the US condemned the plan as inflammatory. But although most Israelis accept that eventually many settlers will have to leave the West Bank, Mr Peres refused to concede the point.

"The problem is not the settlements but the people who reside there. Take Hebron: there are 170,000 Palestinians and 400 Israelis. Why can't they live in peace? It is a matter of relations, not locations."

In Israel, he said, there were 6m Israelis and 1m Arabs: the implication being that they had learned to co-exist.

He rejected the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes, saying it would mean the end of Israel, and he ruled out an apology for their loss of land.

"Why should Israel apologise? There was a Jewish quarter in Hebron in 1929. Most of them were assassinated in cold blood. You cannot pave history with apologies."

He added: "I think people who are busy with the future should not think of the past: it is so full of so many errors. History is a chain of errors. We have to concentrate on the history of the future, not the history of the past."

Special report on Israel and the Middle East at guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: April 7, 2001

Political chain reaction shakes up the Arab world

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 6, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Section: CURRENTS; Pg. C01

Length: 842 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

Back in January 2003, I wrote about liberal Arab intellectuals who had adopted a "big bang" theory about the coming Iraq war.

They preferred any change at all to the political paralysis that gripped the Middle East. They felt squeezed between the repression of authoritarian rulers and the growing popularity of Islamists. They felt an Iraq war would break up the Mideast's political logjam.

And they were right.

The logjam is broken, the wood hurtling downstream. The Iraq war - and Iraqi elections - precipitated a political chain reaction whose end we can't foresee.

It's much too early to predict an outbreak of democracy. Some Arab governments may become more accountable to their people, some may become more Islamist. But, definitely, the region will change.

What's fascinating to watch is how this chain reaction is progressing in ways that no one - including U.S. officials - could have predicted.

Internal pressure for political change had been building for years within the Arab world, though meaningful elections took place in only a few Arab countries.

"People were fed up with having their lives run by other countries dominating or occupying them," says Rami Khouri, editor-at-large of the Beirut Daily Star. "People want to be more involved in running their own affairs."

Unexpected events contributed to the pressure for change. The sudden death of Yasir Arafat in December opened the door for Palestinian elections, which wound up being held in January just before the Iraqi ballot.

Televised scenes of both Palestinian and Iraqi elections - one held under Israeli, the other under U.S. occupation - set the Arab world buzzing. Could national elections be held in Arab countries only under occupation?

Political chain reaction shakes up the Arab world

In fact, the Palestinians had long sought elections, which the United States and Israel opposed as long as Arafat was still around. And in Iraq, the United States repeatedly postponed a vote until Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani forced a ballot.

Some Persian Gulf states, along with countries such as Jordan and Morocco, have held limited elections. But in no Arab country could voters choose their top leaders, who hold the real power.

So the sight of Palestinians and Iraqis electing their governments jolted the Arab world.

The Palestinian and Iraqi elections alone might not have been enough to inspire a broad "Arab awakening." Many Arabs doubted their legitimacy because they were held under occupation. Others downplayed the Iraq vote because Sunnis largely boycotted the ballot and Shiite parties won it; most Arab countries are predominantly Sunni and fear the ascendancy of Shiites to power in Iraq.

It took the "cedar revolution" in Lebanon to provoke real political excitement in the Arab world. The massive car bomb that killed Lebanon's former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri sent tens of thousands of Lebanese into the streets waving their flag with its green cedar emblem.

Hariri was killed - and most Lebanese blame Syria - because he urged Damascus to pull its troops out of Lebanon. His death sparked a spontaneous outpouring of civic anger and forced the pro-Syrian Lebanese government to resign.

The Lebanese example has electrified Arab opinion. In Lebanon, there is no U.S. or Israeli occupation; the occupiers are Syrian Arabs. Nor can other Arabs dismiss all of the demonstrators as members of minority groups; Hariri was a Sunni, and the opposition coalition includes many Sunnis, along with Christians and Druze.

And there is a link with Iraq. Some Lebanese opposition leaders say the sight of Iraqis voting was what inspired them to come out on the streets.

The Cedar Revolution thus sets a precedent for more nonviolent Arab political action. Says Khouri: "What is going on in Lebanon might indeed spark more grassroots activism elsewhere."

The chain reaction continues. Egyptian President-for-life Hosni Mubarak has announced that competition will be permitted in the next presidential election, though no one is yet certain whether this is mere window dressing.

What's also uncertain is what the "Arab awakening" will mean for U.S. interests. In Lebanon, free and fair elections will give a big share of power to Hezbollah, a Shiite party that the U.S. government labels as terrorist.

Many Egyptians believe Islamists would win a fair election in their country. Iraq's election will probably result in a moderately Islamist government that wants women's status to be defined by religious law.

Khouri isn't worried. He notes the old argument that you can't push Arab governments to reform because the result might be victories for Islamists. But he says that argument "is weakening." The really big Islamist threat, he says, is Osama bin Laden, so "mainstream Islamists are not seen as such a big threat anymore."

Indeed, President Bush seems to have concluded that our past preference for Arab stability over democracy has backfired. So the Mideast chain reaction will continue - wherever it leads.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com.

Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Political chain reaction shakes up the Arab world

Worldview

Load-Date: September 8, 2005

End of Document

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya, Afghanistan, Iran, the Mideast and North Korea

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 14, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A19

Length: 734 words

Byline: WILLIAM SAFIRE

Body

The strategic reason for crushing Saddam was to reverse the tide of global terror that incubated in the Middle East.

Is the pre-emptive policy working? Was the message sent by ousting the Baathists as well as the Taliban worth the cost?

Set aside the tens of thousands of lives saved each year by ending Saddam's sustained murder of Iraqi Shia and Kurds, which is of little concern to human rights inactivists. Consider only self-defence: the practical impact of U.S. action on the spread of dangerous weaponry in anti-democratic hands.

New York Times

In Libya, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi took one look at the U.S. army massing for the invasion of Iraq and decided to get out of the mass-destruction business. He has since stopped lying to gullible UN inspectors and - in return for U.S. investment instead of invasion - promises civilized behaviour. The notion that this terror-supporting dictator's epiphany was not the direct result of our military action, but of decade-long diplomatic pleas for goodness and mercy, is laughable.

In Afghanistan, supposedly intractable warlords in a formerly radical Islamist, ***female***-repressing culture of conflicting tribes and languages have come together. Under the NATO security umbrella and with some UN guidance, a grand conclave of leaders freed by U.S. power surprised the Arab world's doubting despots with the elements of a constitution that leads the way out of the past generation's abyss of barbarism.

In Syria, a hiding place for Saddam's finances, henchmen and weaponry - and exporter of ***Hezbollah*** and Hamas terrorism - the dictator Bashar Assad is nervously seeking to reopen negotiations with Israel to regain strategic heights his father lost in the last Syrian aggression. Secret talks have already begun (I suspect through Turkey, Israel's Muslim friend, rather than the unfriendly European Union); this would not have happened while Saddam was able to choke off illicit oil shipments to Syria.

On the West Bank, incipient Israeli negotiations with Syria - on top of the overthrow of the despot who rewarded Palestinian suicide bombers - further isolates the terror organizations behind Yasser Arafat. Under the pressure of Israel's security fence, and without the active support of Egypt and Saudi Arabia (each eager to retain protection of a strong-willed Bush administration), Palestinians now have incentives to find an anti-terrorist leader who can deliver statehood.

The Domino effect: Bush's attack on Iraq was a strategic strike against global terror and it's having positive ripple effects in Libya , Afghanistan , Iran , th....

In Iran, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops near the border was not lost on the despot-clerics in power, who suddenly seemed reasonable to European diplomats seeking guarantees Russian-built nuclear plants would be inspected. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has been secretly dickering with the so-called reform ayatollah for a year in hopes of being on the right side of a future revolution. The old "Great Satan" crowd has just barred four-score reformist Parliament members from seeking re-election. That panicky crackdown in Tehran is a sign of the rulers' weakness; the example of freedom in neighbouring Iraq will help cause another part of the axis to fall.

In Iraq, where casualties in Baghdad could be compared to civilian losses by everyday violence in New York and Los Angeles, a rudimentary federal republic is forming itself with all the customary growing pains. After the new Iraq walks by itself, we can expect free Iraqis to throw their crutches at the doctor. But the U.S. did not depose Saddam to impose a puppet; it is helping Iraqis defeat the diehards and resist fragmentation to set in place a powerful democratic example.

In North Korea, a half-world away from that example, an unofficial U.S. group was shown nuclear fuel facilities at Yongbyon to demonstrate the world faced a real threat. But the United States has given China to understand that nuclear-armed Pyongyang would lead to missile defences in Japan and Taiwan, a potential challenge to China's Asian hegemony. America's new credibility is leading China to broker an enforceable agreement like the kind Libya has offered, with economic sweeteners tightly tied to verification.

A Washington columnist cautions it is too early to proclaim nonproliferation is "spinning into control." But taken together, this phased array of fallout to America's decision to lead the world's war against terror makes the case what it had been doing is strategically sound as well as morally right.

Graphic

Photo: SAMIR MIZBAN, REUTERS; Iraqis watch as members of the new Iraqi army practise manoeuvres in Baghdad. A rudimentary federal republic is forming, with all of the customary growing pains.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance

New York Sun (Archive)

August 21, 2003 Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 833 words

Byline: Special to the Sun

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS

Body

Israel yesterday gave one last chance to the government of Mahmoud Abbas to begin dismantling the Palestinian Arab terror organizations, and opted to avoid a major retaliatory attack against Hamas and Islamic Jihad a day after they carried out the worst terrorist attack since the launch of the road map.

The Israeli cabinet decided to target several Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Brigades operatives, an Israeli source told The New York Sun last night. He said that some operations would be targeted for killing, but others might be arrested and their operations disrupted in other ways. The attacks would last several days but would be narrowly cast to avoid a major breakdown in talks with the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Abbas ordered the arrests yesterday of suspects directly involved in the attack, but said he would not take broader action against militant groups without the backing of Yasser Arafat.

The two Palestinians and other top leaders met into the early hours today to discuss how best to respond. Participants said the talks were tense and occasionally erupted in yelling.

A diplomatic source told the Sun there was no American pressure on Israel to hold back military operations. President Bush placed a call yesterday to Prime Minister Sharon, and Israeli media reported that Mr. Bush's message was that Israel should be allowed go after "killers of women and children."

But America also stressed that it put diplomatic pressure on the Palestinian Arabs, perhaps to avoid the allout Israeli response that was prevalent after terror attacks in the past. Mr. Bush's point man, John Wolf, was rushed back to the region, carrying what Washington sources described as a "strongly worded message" to the Palestinian Arab leadership.

Israeli tanks reportedly arrived in Ramallah last night, surrounding the city where Mr. Arafat is confined to his headquarters, and where several known top operatives of Hamas, Jihad and Brigades are located.

At least 20 were killed in Tuesday's bus bombing, and over a hundred injured. Among the dead were seven Americans, including 43-year-old Goldie Taubenfeld, of Rockland County, and her baby of five months, Shmuel.

The terrorist cell that carried out the Jerusalem attack came from Hebron, according to an Israeli security source, and an Israeli raid is expected there as well. Except for northern Gaza and Bethlehem, the two cities where the

Israel Issues Ultimatum to Abbas: You Have One Last Chance

Palestinian Authority recently resumed its security responsibility, Israel was expected to operate in any West Bank site, the source said.

Israel had been planning to turn over two other cities, Qalqilya and Jericho, to Palestinian Authority control. It planned to follow later with handovers of Hebron and Ramallah as well. Now those plans are on hold.

Some security sources in fact believed that the Hamas' operation, coming from Hebron, was meant to sabotage the return of that city to the Authority, as a way to undermine the peace process. If true, this would indicate a conscious decision by Hamas to end the cease-fire known as houdna, which was reached among Palestinian Arab factions on June 29.

An Israeli official told the Sun that the cabinet's decision last night was crafted to allow Mr. Abbas some room to show he is willing to crack down on terrorists. "Everything rests on Abu Mazen now," Justice Minister Yosef Lapid told the Jerusalem Post, referring to Mr. Abbas.

Israel Radio quoted Palestinian Arab sources who said that Secretary of State Powell told Mr. Abbas in a phone conversation yesterday that Israel would allow time for his security forces to crack down on the terrorist organizations. According to the report, operatives of major terrorist organizations went underground, fearing a crackdown from either Palestinian Arabs or Israel.

Mr. Powell also placed calls to European foreign ministers Jack Straw of Britain, Dominique de Villepin of France, Joschka Fischer of Germany and Ana Palacio of Spain. A Washington source told the Sun that the diplomatic round hoped to pressure Europeans to add the names of Hamas, the Jihad and Hezbollah to their lists of terror organizations - a move which would require all Europeans to act towards cutting those organizations' financial sources.

Reports from Gaza, where a cabinet meeting took place last night, said that Mr. Abbas discussed with his aides ways to confront the terror organizations. Some suggested shutting down offices of Hamas and Jihad, as well as the organizations' official publications.

Israeli right-wing cabinet member Avigdor Lieberman told reporters right after the Tuesday bombing that Israel should "erase the Muqata," as Mr. Arafat's headquarters are known. But an official told the Sun that a move against Mr. Arafat was beyond the scope of the limited decisions taken by the cabinet last night.

Israel however continues to believe that Mr. Arafat is working hard to undermine Mr. Abbas and the road map, walking a tight rope of small scale terrorist attacks on the one hand and political negotiations on the other.

Load-Date: September 4, 2003

***After attack, Powell delays Arafat talks;
The meeting planned for today was postponed after a female bomber killed
six and wounded 84 in Jerusalem.***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

April 13, 2002 Saturday

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: FRONT-PAGE; news

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Byline: Martin Merzer and Michael Matza Knight Ridder News Service

Body

JERUSALEM - Secretary of State Colin L. Powell yesterday called off his meeting with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat following a Sabbath eve suicide bombing in the heart of Jerusalem that killed six people and wounded 84.

Powell, who is in the region trying to halt the spiraling violence, had consulted with Israeli officials earlier yesterday and was preparing to travel to Ramallah to negotiate today with Arafat when the blast occurred.

U.S. and Palestinian officials said the meeting was delayed until at least tomorrow, although no arrangements have been made and U.S. officials were urging Arafat to condemn both the latest attack and others.

The bombing knocked off stride Powell's already profoundly difficult mission for peace in the region.

A militia linked to Arafat, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, claimed responsibility for the latest assault on Israeli civilians. While it was unclear whether Arafat had any direct involvement in yesterday's explosion, the fact that it was perpetrated by an organization closely linked to the Palestinian leader made it difficult for Powell to go ahead with the meeting planned for today.

The attack by a **female** suicide bomber at the Mahane Yehuda outdoor market appeared to be a clear attempt by Palestinian militants to disrupt any peace talks.

The woman was identified as Nidal Daraghmeh, 20, from the Jenin refugee camp, the site of a fierce battle this week between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen.

She set off the bomb about 4 p.m., just as a bus stopped at a crowded bus shelter, at a time certain to cause maximum harm. The market was jammed with pre-Sabbath shoppers.

Police said the bomber apparently tried to enter the market itself, a frequent target of bombings in the past, but was unable to get past security officers there. So, she walked to the nearby bus stop, police said, and blew herself up.

After attack, Powell delays Arafat talks; The meeting planned for today was postponed after a female bomber killed six and wounded 84 in Jerusalem.

Audible throughout Jerusalem, the bombing occurred when Powell was at a nearby helipad. A helicopter carrying him to Israel's tense border with Lebanon flew over the scene of the attack.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Powell heard the explosion. "Do you see what we have to deal with?" Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer reportedly asked him.

Later, as Powell visited the northern border, Hezbollah guerrillas shelled nearby Israeli positions and Israeli warplanes fired retaliatory missiles at guerrilla locations.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer began using the term homicide bombing, and he called on Arafat to condemn terrorism in general and yesterday's attack in particular.

"This is murder, and Yasir Arafat needs to denounce it soon," Fleischer said.

Asked why he used the new term, Fleischer said: "These are people who deliberately go to murder others, with no regard to the values of their own life. . . . And I think that it's just a more accurate description of what these people are doing."

But there was no word from the Palestinian leader, who entered his third week of captivity in a few rooms of a building surrounded by Israeli officials.

Even before the latest bombing, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other Israeli officials strongly criticized Powell's intention to meet with Arafat, saying the Palestinian was a terrorist and an unworthy partner for peace.

Earlier yesterday, Powell completed a first round of talks with Sharon and other Israeli officials that ended with pleasantries and platitudes but no sign of progress.

As a first step, Powell hoped to push Israel toward a swifter withdrawal from the West Bank and to push Arafat toward concrete steps to stop the bombings and other attacks on Israeli civilians.

But after a four-hour meeting with Sharon, Powell suggested during a joint news conference that the Israelis were not budging.

"With respect to specific discussions on timetables and the like, we shared and exchanged views," Powell said, "and I look forward to further exchanges of views in the next couple of days, but I don't have a specific answer on timing."

The Palestinians have insisted they will not take action to stop the bombings and other attacks on civilians until Israel withdraws completely from the West Bank.

In addition, an announcement by the Israeli army that it was burying the bodies of scores of Palestinians killed during this week's battle for the Jenin refugee camp rekindled allegations that Israel was covering up a massacre of civilians.

"Mr. Sharon has committed what we believe will be the last massacre against the Palestinian people," said Samir Rantisi, a Palestinian spokesman. "We believe 500 have been killed, but it's impossible to make an exact count of the dead and wounded."

The Israelis put the death toll at between 100 and 150.

Load-Date: April 15, 2002

Wanted: New martyrs: Recruiting and preparing volunteers for future suicide attacks takes place with considerable openness within Iran

The Gazette (Montreal)

November 29, 2004 Monday

Final Edition

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Byline: ALI AKBAR DAREINI, AP

Dateline: TEHRAN

Body

The 300 men filling out forms in the offices of an Iranian aid group were offered three choices: train for suicide attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq, for suicide attacks against Israelis or to assassinate British author Salman Rushdie.

It looked at first glance like a gathering on the fringes of a society divided between moderates who want better relations with the world and hard-line Muslim militants hostile toward the United States and Israel.

But the presence of two key figures - a prominent Iranian lawmaker and a member of the country's elite Revolutionary Guards - lent the meeting more legitimacy and was a clear indication of at least tacit support from some within Iran's government.

Since that inaugural June meeting in a room decorated with photos of Israeli soldiers' funerals, the registration forms for volunteer suicide commandos have appeared on Tehran's streets and university campuses, with no sign that Iran's government is trying to stop the shadowy movement.

On Nov. 12, the day Iranians traditionally hold pro-Palestinian protests, a spokesperson for the Headquarters for Commemorating Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement said it signed up at least 4,000 new volunteers. Mohammad Ali Samadi, the spokesperson, said the group had no ties to the government.

And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters recently the group's campaign to sign up volunteers for suicide attacks had "nothing to do with the ruling Islamic establishment. That some people do such a thing is the result of their sentiments. It has nothing to do with the government and the system."

Yet despite the government's disavowal of the group and some of its programs, there are indications the suicide attack campaign has at least some legitimacy within the government.

The first meeting was held in the offices of the Martyrs Foundation, a semiofficial organization that helps the families of those killed in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war or those killed fighting for the government on other fronts. It drew hard-line lawmaker Mahdi Kouchakzadeh and General Hossein Salami of the elite Revolutionary Guards.

Wanted: New martyrs: Recruiting and preparing volunteers for future suicide attacks takes place with considerable openness within Iran

"This group spreads valuable ideas," Kouchakzadeh said in an interview.

"At a time when the U.S. is committing the crimes we see now, deprived nations have no weapon other than martyrdom. It's evident that Iran's foreign policy makers have to take the dignified opinions of this group into consideration," said Kouchakzadeh, also a former member of the Revolutionary Guards.

Iranian security officials did not return calls seeking comment about whether they had tried to crack down on the group's training programs or whether they believed any of Samadi's volunteers crossed into Iraq or Israel.

In general, Iran portrays Israel as its main nemesis and backs anti-Israeli groups like Lebanon's Hezbollah. It says it has no interest in fomenting instability in Iraq.

In 1998, Tehran declared it would not support a 1989 fatwa against Rushdie issued by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. But the government also said only the person who issued the edict could rescind it. Khomeini, angered at Rushdie's portrayal of the prophet Muhammad in *The Satanic Verses*, died in June 1989.

Despite its very public canvassing for volunteers, the group can be secretive. Samadi agreed only reluctantly to an interview and insisted it be held in the basement of an unmarked building in central Tehran.

Samadi refused to identify any of his volunteers or the wealthy sympathizers who he says underwrote their efforts.

He claimed 30,000 volunteers signed up, and 20,000 of them were chosen for training. Volunteers had already carried out suicide operations against military targets inside Israel, he said.

But he said discussing attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq "will cause problems for the country's foreign policy. It will have grave consequences for our country and our group. It's confidential."

As devoted Muslims, members of his group were simply fulfilling their obligations as laid out by Khomeini, he said.

In his widely published book of religious directives, Khomeini said: "If an enemy invades Muslim countries and borders, it's an obligation for all Muslims to defend through any possible means: sacrificing life and properties."

Samadi said: "With this religious verdict, we don't need anybody's permission to fight an enemy that has occupied Muslim lands."

Graphic

Color Photo: HASAN SARBAKHSHIAN, AP; Tehran Plays a Dangerous Game: Iranian women read papers of registration indicating their readiness for martyrdom through suicide attacks under a photo of Iran's late leader Ayatollah Khomeini, as they attended a rally in Tehran this month to support Palestinians.

Load-Date: November 29, 2004

Wily shark resurfaces for another bite at Iran presidency

The Times (London)

May 11, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: Overseas news; 36

Length: 818 words

Byline: Richard Beeston, Diplomatic Editor

Body

A FOUNDING leader of the Iranian revolution, who promoted militant Islam in the Middle East and led his country through a war, yesterday became the favourite to be elected President.

Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, 70, who left the presidency eight years ago, announced last night that he had joined the field for the election on June 17.

"I am proud to be a candidate," he said in a three-page statement. The new President, he added, would need to tackle "unemployment, social security, poverty, corruption, discrimination", and "meet the challenge of a young society", particularly women "more determined to participate in the development of the country".

The decision came as little surprise. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani is one of the most powerful and ambitious figures in Iran and has rarely strayed far from the centre of power since he helped Ayatollah Khomeini to overthrow the Shah in a revolution 25 years ago.

Although he will be challenged by younger and more hardline candidates loyal to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he is regarded as the favourite at this early stage of the contest.

Iran's future president will inherit heavy responsibilities from Mohammad Khatami, a reformer whose attempts at modernising Iran and improving relations with the West failed in the face of resistance from religious ideologues.

The new leader will have to fend off a looming showdown with the international community over Iran's nuclear programme. He must also decide whether the country still wants to promote Islamic revolution in the Middle East at a time when the trend is moving from bullets towards ballots.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani's features may have grown a little heavier and his hair has turned whiter and thinner, but those who know him insist that his mind is just as sharp as it was when he was last President. In more than 30 years at the heart of the Iranian regime he has proved himself to be ruthless but flexible, a war leader and a peacemaker -and above all a pragmatist prepared to cut deals with anyone when it suits his interests.

His nickname is Kusheh, which in Persian means Shark, a reference to his smooth features and ruthless reputation. A self-made millionaire, with ties to everything from pistachio exports to heavy industry, the shrewd tactician emerged from the chaos of the Iranian revolution as the most powerful figure in the country after Ayatollah Khomeini. It was often Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani, Kalashnikov rifle clutched in his hand, who delivered the famous Friday sermons at Tehran University, where the regime's anti-Western tirades would be greeted by chants of "Death to America".

Wily shark resurfaces for another bite at Iran presidency

During the eight-year war with Iraq, he often took day-to-day responsibility for operations at the front, where hundreds of thousands died in the trenches.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani was directly involved in what became known as Irangate - the secret negotiations with the Reagan Administration in 1985 for the trade of Western hostages held in Lebanon in return for arms shipments to Iran. He is also credited with persuading Khomeini to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end. Under his leadership, diplomatic efforts were also made to restore relations with Britain, formerly the "Little Satan" to America's "Great Satan".

He is thought to favour a Chinese model of reform that would liberalise Iran's economy and grant greater personal freedoms to the public but keep the Islamic regime firmly in control.

His pragmatism is encouraging hopes in the West that he may also resolve the 26-year conflict with America. President Bush included Iran in his infamous "axis of evil" trio, and Washington is expected to renew efforts to isolate Tehran if the Iranians persist with their nuclear programme.

A new Iranian-American clash is not inevitable, however, in a region undergoing profound change. A Shia Muslim government, with close links to Tehran, has just been elected in Iraq with American help.

Hezbollah, the militant Lebanese militia backed by Iran, is now contemplating becoming a purely political party. Militant Palestinian groups supported by Iran are also flirting with peaceful rather than violent means to express themselves.

These contradictory forces could confound the best efforts of even the most able leader. In the eyes of some Iranians, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani might be too rich, too old or too compromised for the task. But as of yesterday he was also the only candidate with the experience and political muscle for the job.

KHOMEINI HEIR

1934 Born Kerman, Iran

1948 Taught theology by Ayatollah Khomeini

1964-78 Businessman, but keeps Khomeini ties

1979 Revolutionary

1980 Becomes Speaker in parliament and key leader in war against Iraq

1981 Survives bombing

1985 Negotiates arms for hostages deal with US

1988 Concludes peace deal with Iraq

1989 Elected President

1993 Wins second term

1997 Barred from standing for third term

2000 Defeated in parliamentary elections

Load-Date: May 11, 2005

Wily shark resurfaces for another bite at Iran presidency

End of Document

Hamas fires new rockets at Israel

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

February 11, 2002 Monday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 813 words

Byline: TIM JOHNSON

Dateline: SAAD, Israel

Body

Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired what appeared to be two next-generation rockets into Israel yesterday, marking a strategic shift in warfare that is likely to heighten fears in Israeli border cities.

The rockets, which might have carried up to 10 kilograms of explosives, landed harmlessly and were overshadowed by violence in the Negev Desert city of Beersheba, where gunmen linked to the militant Hamas organization killed two Israelis and wounded four others.

Israeli F-16 jets responded to the deadly attack by firing missiles at several targets in the Gaza Strip, including a base used by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's private security detail.

But the launches might prove significant in a region where tensions are already the highest in decades. Knight Ridder Newspapers; The Washington Post and AP, contributed to this report

Israeli military sources said Palestinian militants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now have the Kassam-II rockets in their arsenals, exposing tens of thousands of Israeli civilians to attack.

Israeli officials have warned of a ferocious Israeli military response - "like something you've never seen before," said a senior army officer - if the rockets were fired into an Israeli city.

The homemade rockets lack a guidance system and are much less powerful than those used by Iraq during the Gulf War, but they travel three times as far as their first-generation cousins and are "precise enough to hit a metropolitan target," according to an army statement.

"Israel has warned the Palestinian Authority on more than one occasion that if the Kassam-II is fired into Israeli territory, into Israeli towns, this will be considered a new game with new rules," Israel Radio's military correspondent, Alan Ben Ami, told listeners last night.

A senior Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Hamas leaders boast they can load the rockets "with non-conventional warheads," meaning chemical payloads.

Israeli soldiers captured eight of the rockets at a roadblock between Nablus and Jenin in the West Bank last week, signaling that Hamas militants are attempting to distribute them to key border points.

Hamas fires new rockets at Israel

"They can produce a lot. The explosives they need for propulsion are very simple to produce, as well," the senior security official said.

One of the rockets landed near a communal village, or kibbutz, 6.5 kilometres from the Gaza border in Saad. Another fell at a nearby co-operative farm, nearly 8 kilometres from the border.

Witnesses near the Saad Kibbutz said they heard three launches around 11 a.m. but found only one 2-metre-wide crater, where a rocket slammed down near a tractor. Israeli soldiers later found three launchers in the Gaza Strip.

"It was large-diameter and fired from a long range," said Uri Ya'ari, security officer at the kibbutz, one of the communal villages that dot Israel.

Hours after the launches, Palestinian officials said their security agents had arrested Adnan al-Ghoul, considered Hamas's top engineer. They said al-Ghoul helped develop the Kassam rockets.

The senior security official said the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon believes Palestinian militants are trying to escalate conflict with Israel, hoping to increase international pressure on the Sharon government to come to the peace table.

In the separate attack in Beersheba, the Palestinian gunmen opened fire with assault rifles near an army base, killing two female soldiers and wounding four others. Security forces quickly killed the two gunmen. "The two men got out of the car and started firing in all directions," said army Capt. Guy Shaham, who hit one of the gunmen.

Early today. Israeli tanks entered the West Bank city of Nablus, witnesses said, surrounding Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish religious site abandoned early in the current round of fighting.

Palestinians said the Israeli invaders encountered heavy resistance and gunfire. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Rocket and missile attacks are not new to Israelis. The nation came under sustained missile attack during the Gulf War in 1991 when Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein fired at least 38 Scud missiles at Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The attacks damaged hundreds of buildings and prompted Israelis to don gas masks and hustle into bomb shelters for fear that the Scuds might carry chemical weapons. None did. But at least 13 Israelis died and 200 were wounded.

Later in the 1990s, Israeli villages along the northern border with Lebanon came under frequent attack from Katyusha rockets fired by Iranian-backed Hezbollah forces.

Israeli troops withdrew from southern Lebanon in May 2000, and the attacks largely ended.

Both Katyushas, which have a 19-kilometre range, and long-range Scuds are more powerful and sophisticated than the Kassam-IIs. But the smaller Kassam-IIs carry enough explosives to "cause terrible damage," the senior security official said.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

Iraqi regime change way to peace

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

January 23, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: Forum; Thomas Friedman; Pg. A16; Column

Length: 751 words

Byline: Thomas Friedman

Body

As the decision on Iraq approaches, I, like so many Americans, have had to ask myself: What do you really think? Today, I explain why I think liberals under-appreciate the value of removing Saddam Hussein. Later, I will explain why conservatives under-appreciate the risks of doing so -- and how we should balance the two.

What liberals fail to recognize is that regime change in Iraq is not some distraction from the war on al-Qaida. That is a bogus argument. And simply because oil is also at stake in Iraq doesn't make it illegitimate either. Some things are right to do, even if Big Oil benefits.

Special to The StarPhoenix

Although President George Bush has cast the war in Iraq as being about disarmament -- and that is legitimate -- disarmament is not the most important prize there. Regime change is the prize. Regime transformation in Iraq could make a valuable contribution to the war on terrorism, whether Saddam is ousted or enticed into exile.

Why? Because what really threatens open, western, liberal societies today is not Saddam and his weapons per se. He is a twisted dictator who is deterrable through conventional means, because Saddam loves life more than he hates us. What threatens western societies today are not the deterrables, such as Saddam, but the undeterrables -- the boys who did 9/11, who hate us more than they love life. It's these human missiles of mass destruction that could really destroy our open society.

So then the question is: What is the cement mixer that is churning out these undeterrables -- these angry, humiliated and often unemployed Muslim youth? That cement mixer is a collection of faltering Arab states, which, as the UN's Arab Human Development Report noted, have fallen so far behind the world that their combined GDP does not equal that of Spain. And the reason they have fallen behind can be traced to their lack of three things: freedom, modern education and women's empowerment.

If we don't help transform these Arab states -- which are also experiencing population explosions -- to create better governance, to build more open and productive economies, to empower their women and to develop responsible news media that won't blame all their ills on others, we will never begin to see the political, educational and religious reforms they need to shrink their output of undeterrables.

We have partners. Trust me, there is a part of every young Arab today that recoils at the idea of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, because of its colonial overtones. But there is a part of many young Arabs today that prays the U.S. will not only oust Saddam but all other Arab leaders as well.

Iraqi regime change way to peace

It is not unreasonable to believe that if the U.S. removed Saddam and helped Iraqis build not an overnight democracy but a more accountable, progressive and democratizing regime, it would have a transforming effect on the entire Arab world -- a region desperately in need of a progressive model that works.

And liberals need to take heed. Just by mobilizing for war against Iraq, the U.S. has sent this region a powerful message: We will not leave you alone anymore to play with matches, because the last time you did, we got burned. Just the threat of a U.S. attack has already prompted Hezbollah to be on its best behavior in Lebanon. And it has spurred Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to introduce a proposal for an "Arab Charter" of political and economic reform.

Let me sum up my argument with two of my favorite sayings. The first is by Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, who says: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." It is true of countries as well. Until the Arab peoples are given a real ownership stake in their countries -- a real voice in how they are run -- they will never wash them, never improve them as they should.

The second is an American Indian saying -- "If we don't turn around now, we just may get where we're going." The Arab world has been digging itself into a hole for a long time. If our generation simply helps it stop digging, possibly our grandchildren and its own will reap the benefits. But if we don't help the Arabs turn around now, they just may get where they're going -- a dead end where they will produce more and more undeterrables.

This is something liberals should care about -- because liberating the captive peoples of the Mideast is a virtue in itself and because in today's globalized world, if you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it will visit you.

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SCOTSMAN DIARY: BEWARE THE PARTY POOPERS

The Scotsman

December 11, 2003, Thursday

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 741 words

Byline: Simon Pia

Body

THE Season of Good Conduct is upon us, believe it or not. Well, that's according to the legal eagles at Ledingham Chalmers, who warn us that not only staff but employers must be on their guard.

"The office party could well spell disaster for employers if they are unaware of recent legislation," Lili Hunter, employment lawyer, tells us.

New regulations come into force this month - just in time for Christmas - which could lead to costly damages. Not only are employers now liable for the inappropriate behaviour of their staff on the premises, they may still be deemed to have vicarious liability, ie for antics outside.

"The bad news does not end there," Lili adds. "A company may also be vicariously liable for acts of harassment committed by third parties." In other words, customers or clients who are dirty old men.

So, foul language, unwelcome physical contact or indecent behaviour are a no -no, although it sounds much like an average day at Barclay Towers.

Don't say you haven't been warned. Ledingham Chalmers, however, is proffering a bottle of finest single malt - none of that Cardhu stuff, thank you - for a reader's best tale of transgression.

Meantime, maybe it's old age, but Christmas parties somehow ain't what they used to be.

WE note charges have been dropped against nine Algerian men arrested in terrorist raids last Christmas, one in a flat off Easter Road in Leith. Did the Diary not say at time they were more likely to be members of Hibsollah than Hezbollah?

Kylie tops accountants' wish list

THE award for the most gratuitous press release of the festive season goes to the Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland and its CA magazine for revealing that "Kylie tops Scots accountants' Christmas party guest list".

But it does prompt some questions, such as (a) Did they really have to share this information? (b) Were female accountants included in the poll? (c) Are there any female accountants? (d) Is this to make accountants seem sexy?

SCOTSMAN DIARY: BEWARE THE PARTY POOPERS

We also would not have admitted that Richard "Beardie" Branson was second in the poll.

Still, we raise our glass to the 2 per cent who voted for Gordon Brown as top party guest. Sounds like our kinda accountant.

A new twist in Forsyth saga?

THE Scottish People's Alliance, last spotted in Berlin by reader Ann Scott, may have resurfaced like a U-boat.

At the weekend, Michael Forsyth, the former Secretary of State for Scotland, suggested combining MPs and MSPs.

"Was this not the SPA policy at the last election?" Ann asks.

The Tories were a policy-free party after 1997. So has the SPA infiltrated the Tory party? Is Michael Forsyth a sleeper? The SPA has been very quiet.

Hugh calls off - thanks to Diary

ANOTHER victory for the Diary. Hugh Kerr, the SSP press officer, has responded to our item about him and his mobile in the Auld Hoose in North Berwick.

"I didn't realise the Diary had its spies everywhere, even in my local. I plead guilty, but as you know, press officers are never off duty - even when my beloved Hibs are being defeated by the Jambos. However, I promise to take the calls in the back room of the Auld Hoose and buy Bryan Goldie a pint next time I see him.

"The Auld Hoose is not only my local but also where the SSP and my folk club meet, so I too want to preserve its unique atmosphere."

You can't get much better than that. Rapid reply, concern for potential constituents, etc. Who knows? Hugh might pick up more votes in the Auld Hoose at the next election, as one auld worthie there admits to us: "I would never ever have considered voting SSP, but they got my second vote in May because I'd met Hugh in the pub." And Hugh hadn't even promised him a pint.

A wonderful new lease of life

PANTO tends to be just a little bit predictable (oh yes it is), which is why Nonsenseroom's production of It's a Wonderful Life at Rosslyn Chapel catches the eye.

Jimmy "ah-ah-ah" Stewart's role as George Bailey in the Frank Capra comedy has become standard Christmas fare on TV, but here it is on stage in deepest Midlothian.

Our man at Nonsenseroom tells us Capra even modelled Bedford Falls on Bilston Glen.

The original movie was not a hit with audiences or critics when it came out in 1946 and only took off when the copyright terminated in 1973 and television stations could use it whenever they liked. Now it is such a classic that Ernie and Bert in Sesame Street were named after the cop and the cab driver in the film. Not a lot of people know that.

Load-Date: December 11, 2003

America has sown the seeds of civil war in Iraq: It's not religious rivalry but the puppet regime that threatens stability

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

July 3, 2004

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Byline: Sami Ramadani

Body

"They get their dead in neat caskets draped with a flag; we have to gather and scrape our dead off of the floors and hope the American shrapnel and bullets left enough to make a definite identification." So wrote the author of the weblog Baghdad Burning, as she tried to draw attention to the tragic reality of life in occupied Baghdad.

It is this bereavement and anger among Iraqis - some of it expressed in mortars and homemade bombs - that has forced Bush and Blair to abandon any fanfare and hand over "sovereignty" in a secret bunker guarded by tanks. Not one signal of popular joy greeted the historic event.

In a parallel but equally deceptive move, the US handed over Saddam's legal file but the tyrant is still in US custody. Saddam's defiance in court largely stems from the fact that many of his accusers - including Prime Minister Allawi, a former cadre of Saddam's Ba'ath party, and some of the non-Ba'athist forces represented in the transitional government - were allies of his regime. Many Iraqis feel that the US-appointed transitional government has no moral authority over the man in the dock, both because of their past association with his regime and because they came, in the words of a now common Iraqi saying, "on the backs of American tanks". As one Iraqi observed: "If they give Saddam a fair trial, they will all end up with him in the dock - Kissinger, Reagan, Thatcher, Blair, the two Bushes and Allawi."

The trial might succeed in serving short-term propaganda purposes in the west, but it will not hide the fact that in installing a protege government, the US has taken the most dangerous step on the road to civil war in Iraq.

The seeds of the Vietnam war were sown by the US installing a client regime in Saigon. And unless Bush and Blair are stopped by the American and British peoples, a similar catastrophe is in the making in Iraq and the wider Middle East. But it will not be a war of Arabs against Kurds, Sunnis against Shia or Muslims against Christians, but an equally devastating war between a US-backed minority (of all religions, sects and nationalities) against a similarly composed overwhelming majority of the Iraqi people. The killing fields of this war could eventually stretch from Afghanistan to Palestine.

Just like Iraq today, South Vietnam was seen by Washington as the line that must be held at all costs. But as the Vietnamese people's rejection of the client regime grew stronger, the US bunkered behind its creation in Saigon, and one million Vietnamese troops backed by half a million US soldiers. Hundreds of thousands of people were arrested and tortured; the total Vietnamese death toll topped 3 million, and 55,000 US soldiers were killed in action.

America has sown the seeds of civil war in Iraq : It's not religious rivalry but the puppet regime that threatens stability

The US terror tactics in Vietnam (and more recently in Nicaragua and Honduras) are being gradually introduced into Iraq. US assassination squads and Mossad, for example, must be already active in Iraq, following the training of special US forces teams of "hitmen", with the help of Israeli experts, at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Israel several months ago - as reported by the distinguished American journalist Seymour Hirsh, a story which the Pentagon did not deny.

Thousands of Iraqis have been killed since the "end" of the war, adding to the uncounted thousands killed as collateral damage during it. And the occupation has blocked the democratic gains that Iraqis might have enjoyed after the collapse of Saddam's regime. For the US has long realised that the Iraqi people, if given the choice, would elect forces hostile to US policies.

Elections for deans in Iraq's universities were won by anti-occupation candidates, prompting the US to scrap elections for city mayors and oppose calls for early nationwide elections. The Union of the Unemployed quickly emerged as an effective campaigning force and the Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions resurfaced. In response, the US proconsul, Paul Bremer, resurrected the 1984 Saddam law banning all strikes in the public sector and ordered the arrest of the union's leaders. Meanwhile, the "democratic" institutions that Bremer tried to establish have all failed to strike a chord with the people. With the exception of limited free speech, which excludes "incitement" against occupation, there is nothing to show for so much death and destruction.

It has become fashionable to criticise the US for "having no plans" for Iraq after the fall of Saddam. The truth is that tens of policy committees drafted numerous plans. I know many Iraqi exiles who were well-paid to join these committees, which worked in the US before the invasion. All these plans crashed after colliding with the rock of the Iraqi people's opposition. Had most of the people been even mildly supportive of the invasion, these plans would have been implemented, and Bush and Blair might now be holding regular press conferences in downtown Baghdad. The Iraqi people's resistance has, for a period at least, thwarted US plans to attack Iran, Syria, Hizbullah in Lebanon, and North Korea.

Though varied in political and social outlook, the opposition to the US-led presence, and the armed resistance (as distinct from terrorism), have been supported by most Iraqis and by the mosques.

Short of banning prayer itself, the mosque was one institution that Saddam couldn't crush, which explains their central role in opposing both Saddam's tyranny and the occupation. But the role of religion in Iraq is politically and socially contradictory. While the anti-occupation secular forces are concerned about the influence of Iraq's religious leaders, the latter are not all cut from the same cloth. Many are supportive of working with secular forces, holding democratic elections and protecting women's rights and those of the Kurdish people.

Some Shia and Sunni religious leaders formed an anti-sectarian front, the Muslim Scholars Committee. The MSC has organised demonstrations in Baghdad and other cities encouraging Muslims to unite and pray at each others' mosques, where secular people are also welcome. The committee invited over 30 secular and Christian organisations to attend the First Founding Iraqi Conference Against the US Occupation. This significant development attracted little media coverage, as it contradicts the notion that Iraqis are incapable of working collectively.

The western media predicted that civil war was imminent after explosions at Shia mosques killed hundreds of people in March. But instead, these explosions generated a massive show of unity across Iraq. People blamed the US (and Israel) for planning the atrocities or turning a blind eye to the perpetrators.

Bush and Blair continue to peddle the myth, beloved of old colonialists, that Iraqis will start a civil war if the "benevolent" presence of the occupation forces is removed. But there is nothing benevolent about their troops or their stooges. Allawi is not only a former Saddam operative and CIA "asset", but also the leader of the Iraqi National Accord, an organisation composed of former Saddamist officers. His appointment, and the torture at Abu Ghraib, are part of a systematic US policy of building new Saddamist-style state structures.

America has sown the seeds of civil war in Iraq : It's not religious rivalry but the puppet regime that threatens stability

It is the US-led presence itself which is dividing Iraqis now. The US is deepening a split between a minority for and an overwhelming majority against the US-led forces. The immediate withdrawal of the US-led forces from Iraq is the only way to stop the impending "civil" war, in which the US will back a "sovereign" Iraqi government to crush the people and their aspirations for liberation and democracy.

Sami Ramadani is a senior lecturer in sociology at London Metropolitan University and was a political exile from Saddam's regime

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Campuses struggle to separate Islam from terrorism

University Wire

September 9, 2002, Monday

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Length: 838 words

Byline: By Marie Mackay, The Utah Statesman

Dateline: Logan, Utah

Body

The Koran and Allah are all familiar words learned, recognized and even hated since the events of Sept. 11.

Even though many Utah State University students, Cache Valley residents and Americans know about Islam and its followers, Muslims, some still link them with terrorism.

"It continues to amaze me that sometimes people don't use common sense and put themselves in other people's shoes," said Amal Kavar, USU political science professor. "There are already a lot of overgeneralizations because of an overbiased media, and I feel bad for the people who do that, because it makes themselves look ignorant." Utah State U.

Perspectives change, however, as people realize one terrorist action took a toll on the lives and beliefs of Muslims and members of other religions alike.

"A terrorist should be identified and condemned as a terrorist, but a terrorist should not be identified with his or her religious affiliation," said Syed Sohawarddy, who is a Muslim.

Nazih Al-rashid, director of Student Support Services, said some people were quick to blame terrorist motives on religion.

"This event shouldn't be associated with any religion. It's a wrong way of informing people about Islam during the time of Sept. 11," he said.

The names of many terrorist groups may cause confusion because of their religious connections, including HAMAS (an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement), Hezbollah (Party of God), and Palestine Islamic Jihad.

Young people were recruited into the Taliban (Afghan government) having almost no understanding of Islamic tradition or culture and given only minimal introduction to the Koran. The Taliban's militant fundamentalism created intense, political indoctrination.

The lives of Muslims unstained by military control take on a different view of life. They believe in God, angels, revealed books, prophets and messengers of God, the Day of Judgment, and divine predestination.

"[Islam] is like any other religion," Al-rashid said. "It carries the same values and messages that religions such as Judaism and Christianity do."

Campuses struggle to separate Islam from terrorism

Many Muslims are devoted to their religion.

According to Islam-guide.com, "Inciting terror in the hearts of defenseless civilians; the wholesale destruction of buildings and properties; the bombing and maiming of innocent men, women and children are all forbidden and detestable acts."

The religious text in which Muslims believe, the Koran, is to them what the Bible is to Christians. It states the fundamental beliefs of Islam.

Muslims see the Koran as a message from Allah to humanity. They claim it was transmitted in a chain starting from the Almighty to the angel Gabriel to the prophet Muhammad. This message was given to the prophet in pieces over a period spanning approximately 23 years. The language of the original message was Arabic, but it has been translated into many other languages.

Aside from the Koran, the Five Pillars are the framework for a Muslim's life.

They are to bear witness in public, at least once in a lifetime, of God and his prophet Muhammad; pray five times a day; pay Zakat, which is two and one-half percent of one's capital every year, fast during the month of Ramadan from dawn until sunset, and perform the annual pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime.

Islam is the fastest-growing religion in the world, practiced by one-fifth of the world's population.

It has spread to the United States in homes and in classrooms everywhere, including the University of North Carolina, where incoming freshmen were required to read passages from the Koran and write an essay.

Some disagreed with the requirement.

A lawsuit was filed by three anonymous students and two taxpayers represented by the Mississippi-based American Family Association Center for Law and Policy, claiming the book was "carefully selected to create a favorable opinion of the religion of Islam."

UNC Chancellor James Moeser defended his school.

"This was a book chosen in the wake of Sept. 11," he said. "A fifth of the world's population subscribes to the Islamic religion, and yet, it's not a well-understood religion. This is a great opportunity to have a conversation on the teachings of one of the world's great religions."

Many people feel it is an obligation to understand the Muslim perspective, because the memory of Sept. 11 will remain in people's minds for decades, and even centuries, to come.

Al-rashid said, "In order for humanity to live in peace, we need to trace all the causes to these problems. We need to know what caused these groups of people to do these kinds of things -- just like a sickness. We can't treat the sickness until we diagnose it."

The one-year anniversary of Sept. 11 may bring a new awakening for many students.

Celestial Bybee, president of the Associated Students of USU, said, "I hope the students can see that the strength of a nation comes from the individual. We should be proud of our nation and treat others with respect."

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Readers' views

The Capital (Annapolis, MD)

July 8, 2002 Monday

Copyright 2002 Capital-Gazette Communications, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A8

Length: 794 words

Body

Pledge ruling

I have been reading with great sadness the commentary and the backlash regarding the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision concerning the Pledge of Allegiance.

As a Christian, I fully support the removal of the word "God" from the Pledge of Allegiance as well as from our money and from any language involving official acts of government.

We have overused God's name in public to a point where it is almost meaningless. Religion and faith and spirituality are very personal and private. The true test of one's faith is not how many ways you can incorporate God into government, but rather how you live your life through your personal acts and your interactions with people around you.

By continuing to use God's name in association with government, we ultimately are diluting the importance of God and God's involvement in the lives of those who believe in a God.

Those who insist upon mingling their faith with government are not unlike the scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus rebuked during his time on Earth: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

ROBERT L. TUFTS

Annapolis

Middle East

The letter from Rob Dean (Readers' views, June 21) illustrates the need to be ever-vigilant against the tendency to reduce history and politics to racist, anti-Semitic rhetoric.

He stated that he has seen pictures of Israeli police executing bound Palestinians. I would like him to produce the magazine, newspaper or photo depicting this scene. It is not a picture I have seen.

Instead, I have seen pictures of small children, old men and young women lying dead in the streets of Israel from suicide bombings by cowards who call themselves religious zealots. The terrorists wrap ball bearings and nails around their bombs to make them more deadly. The Hezbollah has declared that its sole and only goal is the destruction of Israel and the death of as many Jews as possible.

Readers' views

The most egregious statement in the letter is the attempt to blame Jews for the attacks of Sept. 11. According to Mr. Dean, "Arab terrorists attacked our country because our government is giving \$2.3 billion per year to Israel so that Israel can defend the land that we stole for it in 1947."

First, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida declared that the Sept. 11 attacks were to pressure the United States to withdraw the base established on Saudi soil during Desert Storm. We have been attacked more for taking sides between big oil nations than for our support of Israel.

Second, while the United States supported the creation of Israel, it had little to do with the consolidation of lands that eventually formed Israel.

It is hard to understand why anyone thinks this area was stolen by Jews. The area comprising Israel has been known as Judea, land of the Jews, for more than 5,000 years.

Blame the terrorists, not Israel.

WILLIAM H. SCHLADT

Annapolis

Growth

The Queen Anne's County commissioners recently indicated that they have done their best representing all the people of the county and that only a few people disagree with their decisions on growth and development.

It appears there may be more than a few people who take issue with the impending growth and development. Here are some instances:

Sept. 14, 2000: There was a standing-room-only crowd of 500 people at Kent Island High School for the Critical Area Commission hearing on the Four Seasons growth allocation. Many spoke against the growth allocation.

Nov. 2, 2000: Some 2,198 voters signed an Election Day petition to the commissioners requesting responsible growth management and denial of the growth allocation.

Feb. 27, 2001: There was a standing-room-only crowd of 500 people at Kent Island High School for a commissioners' hearing on the growth allocation. Many spoke against the growth allocation.

Oct. 23, 2001: A referendum petition on critical area map amendments was filed with the Board of Elections. Some 4,409 citizens (about 20 percent of Queen Anne's County's registered voters) signed this petition to place the growth allocation on the ballot.

There have been numerous hearings on other projects and related growth issues. Public attendance was heavy and the public provided many suggestions, including a stronger Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, increased and evenly distributed impact fees, a sewer allocation cap, limits on building permits, etc.

The commissioners should act on the desire of the citizens to vote on or stop large-scale developments. As commissioners, they should use the financial and human resources at their disposal to determine other satisfactory alternatives.

A lot of taxpayer money has been spent on studies. Perhaps it is time to perform a relatively inexpensive citizen survey on growth issues.

RICHARD MOSER

Chester

Readers' views

Load-Date: July 8, 2002

End of Document

West anxiously courting a willing Iran: With its leader's 'remarkable' conversation, Islamic state opens door to a new relationship

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

September 22, 2001 Saturday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 808 words

Byline: BRUCE WALLACE

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Britain will send its foreign minister to Iran next week for the first time since the country's Islamic revolution of 1979 to see if it is possible to cool the hostility between Tehran and major Western powers.

The visit by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is an attempt to pry open the small diplomatic window offered by Iran's decision to condemn last week's terrorist attacks on the United States. Both the reformist government of President Mohammad Khatami and the more conservative clerics who run Iran's foreign policy have offered their condolences to the United States over the attacks - though they have also warned Washington against a muscular reprisal "that may lead to another human tragedy."

But American officials are clearly intrigued by the possibility of luring Iran into its broad coalition of nations to hunt down and destroy the terrorist network that wreaked such deadly havoc.

Southam News

They are particularly teased by reports of Tony Blair's mid-air conversation with Khatami on Thursday, which the British prime minister described to journalists on his U.S.-bound plane as "remarkable."

"Not simply did he give his full solidarity in terms of what had happened to the U.S. and his strong condemnation of terrorism, but he also said that out of that we rebuild the relationship between our two countries as well," Blair said immediately afterward.

Watching His Back

But Iranian news outlets also quoted Khatami as telling Blair: "A tragedy must not be answered with another tragedy and innocent people in Afghanistan, or any other place, must not be attacked or hurt."

The Iranian president may have simply been watching his back in his ongoing battle with the conservative clerics. There are clear signs the Iranian government is torn over how to respond to the rapid pace of events. This week, hard-line security forces harshly broke up a group of Iranian women holding an unauthorized candlelit vigil in the middle of Tehran's rush-hour traffic.

West anxiously courting a willing Iran : With its leader's 'remarkable' conversation, Islamic state opens door to a new relationship

But Khatami's overture to Blair shows how suddenly old geopolitical assumptions may be evaporating, the encased alignments of yesterday being tossed to the breeze.

Washington has been cautiously enthused in recent days by the Iranian response to the Sept. 11 attacks. There are many in the hard-line conservative circles of the Bush administration who believe Iran should be a target - not an ally - in any war on terrorism. Indeed, the U.S. State Department lists Iran as a sponsor of terrorist groups, notably the anti-Israel Hezbollah guerrillas, which continue to violently block the road to Mideast peace.

But last week, for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, there were no chants of "death to America" yesterday at weekly prayers around the country, which are controlled by the conservatives. And some Western diplomats argue the clerics have lost their appetite for foreign adventures and mischief in the last two years, as their attention is focused on managing the rising demands for relaxation of Islamic rule at home.

In Washington, some members of the Bush administration now see the possibility of using diplomatic pressure to curb Iran's support for terrorist organizations. "We have serious differences with the government of Iran because of their support for terrorism," Secretary of State Colin Powell said earlier this week.

Islam Condemns Massacre

"But they have made a statement that is worth exploring."

Washington and Tehran have not had diplomatic relations since the 1979 Islamic revolution when fundamentalist students seized the U.S. embassy and held 52 Americans for 444 days.

And the Islamic clerics who still retain ultimate constitutional authority in the country are hardly buying in to any massive American military sweep through their region. On Tuesday, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned, "Iran condemns any attack on Afghanistan that may lead to another human tragedy."

But he also skipped the pro forma branding of the United States as an enemy of Iran.

"Islam condemns the massacre of defenceless people, whether Muslim or Christian or others, anywhere and by any means," he said.

In the chess game of Mideast politics, the Iranian government carries its own grudge against Afghanistan's Taliban government.

Iran conducts massive operations to combat drug smugglers it claims are pouring their product in from Afghanistan, as well as hosting about 1.4 million Afghan refugees from the neighbouring civil wars and drought.

Three years ago, Iran almost went to war with Afghanistan after the Taliban killed 10 Iranian diplomats and a journalist when Taliban fighters seized the Iranian consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Iran sent troops to the border but did not invade.

It continues to demand the Taliban hand over those suspected of killing Iranians.

Load-Date: September 22, 2001

Life was a lot simpler before Sept. 11

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

November 4, 2001 Sunday

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED,; Tommy Schnurmacher; Column

Length: 758 words

Byline: TOMMY SCHNURMACHER

Body

How's America's "new war" going? Not too well. President George W. Bush has already informed us the campaign against the "evildoers" could go on for years. No one expects to settle such a complex geopolitical issue in a short time, but there is a pressing need to see some modicum of progress.

Right now, America's numerous enemies in the Middle East are far from convinced the U.S. will emerge victorious. Many are keeping their powder dry to see which way the wind is blowing.

Freelance

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, most people in the U.S. rallied around the president. But that's when he was making tough speeches. His popularity remains high, but a few daring souls are starting to notice something is amiss.

The president of the United States looks scared and U.S. Attorney-General John Ashcroft doesn't sound very reassuring. They can plaster the entire country with American flags and organize endless tributes for heroic firemen, but the situation still looks bleak.

Hundreds of experts are working on identifying the source of anthrax that has been unleashed in New York and Washington, yet they still don't have a clue as to where it came from.

In Afghanistan, every day brings with it "the strongest strikes yet." Nonetheless, the Taliban and the terrorist network it shelters remain intact and defiant.

America is being presented to the world by the Al-Jazeera TV network as a country that kills Afghan women and children when it isn't destroying one Red Cross storage centre after another.

For all we know, Osama bin Laden and his top henchmen might have fled to Iraq or Libya or Pakistan on Sept. 10.

Let's face it. The dictators who repress their own populations across the Middle East are more powerful today than they were before the attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

Many continue to openly support terrorist groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad, yet the Western diplomats just keep on coming. They insist Israel must stop defending itself from assassins and terrorists to maintain the delicate coalition.

Life was a lot simpler before Sept. 11

Syrian President Bashar Assad has indicated that killing Israeli teenagers is an acceptable way to fight "occupation" and insists any attempt by Israel to prevent its civilians from being murdered should be defined as terrorism.

Our own foreign minister, John Manley, has said he sees a difference between killing innocent Americans at work and killing Israeli teenagers at a disco or pizza parlour.

Such a double standard explains why the United States is allowed to kill innocent Afghans as "collateral damage" but Israel is not allowed to target terrorists who kill Israeli civilians.

Prior to Sept. 11, John Manley would have had no trouble correctly labeling organizations like Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad as terrorist groups. Since Sept. 11, he doesn't have the courage to do it.

A few months ago, the president of the United States and his lame administration were under the impression the biggest problem they would ever have to face would be the controversy surrounding stem-cell research.

The world has changed. The U.S. is now worried its citizens might be attacked with smallpox and bubonic plague.

If the World Trade Centre were still standing, does anyone believe for one second the United States and Britain would be trying to curry favour with Syria and Iran?

The image of the United States has also changed drastically since Sept. 11. Prior to the terrorist attacks, it was seen as a superpower that could defeat any enemy. These days, it is perceived as so inept, weak and indecisive it can't even figure out what to do during Ramadan.

If the United States did stop the bombing for an entire month, it wouldn't gain any brownie points. A break in the bombing would, however, allow the Taliban to regroup.

America's enemies would be thoroughly convinced the lull in the fighting was a blessing for their noble cause. A break during Ramadan would be seen as divine approval of their stand against the American infidels.

And never mind just Afghanistan. Today, we have to worry about the possibility of Osama bin Laden laying his hands on suitcase-size nuclear weapons.

Life was certainly more simple before Sept. 11. Remember when some people could get all excited about the size of lettering on bilingual signs and we were outraged at the money Pauline Marois had wasted on silent toilets?

Those were the days.

- Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 radio. His E-Mail address is tommys@total.net.

Load-Date: November 4, 2001

Thinking About Iraq (I)

The New York Times

January 22, 2003 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 5; Editorial Desk; Pg. 21

Length: 749 words

Byline: By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Body

As the decision on Iraq approaches, I, like so many Americans, have had to ask myself: What do you really think? Today I explain why I think liberals under-appreciate the value of removing Saddam Hussein. And on Sunday I will explain why conservatives under-appreciate the risks of doing so -- and how we should balance the two.

What liberals fail to recognize is that regime change in Iraq is not some distraction from the war on Al Qaeda. That is a bogus argument. And simply because oil is also at stake in Iraq doesn't make it illegitimate either. Some things are right to do, even if Big Oil benefits.

Although President Bush has cast the war in Iraq as being about disarmament -- and that is legitimate -- disarmament is not the most important prize there. Regime change is the prize. Regime transformation in Iraq could make a valuable contribution to the war on terrorism, whether Saddam is ousted or enticed into exile.

Why? Because what really threatens open, Western, liberal societies today is not Saddam and his weapons per se. He is a twisted dictator who is deterrable through conventional means. Because Saddam loves life more than he hates us. What threatens Western societies today are not the deterrables, like Saddam, but the undeterrables -- the boys who did 9/11, who hate us more than they love life. It's these human missiles of mass destruction that could really destroy our open society.

So then the question is: What is the cement mixer that is churning out these undeterrables -- these angry, humiliated and often unemployed Muslim youth? That cement mixer is a collection of faltering Arab states, which, as the U.N.'s Arab Human Development Report noted, have fallen so far behind the world their combined G.D.P. does not equal that of Spain. And the reason they have fallen behind can be traced to their lack of three things: freedom, modern education and women's empowerment.

If we don't help transform these Arab states -- which are also experiencing population explosions -- to create better governance, to build more open and productive economies, to empower their women and to develop responsible media that won't blame all their ills on others, we will never begin to see the political, educational and religious reforms they need to shrink their output of undeterrables.

We have partners. Trust me, there is a part of every young Arab today that recoils at the idea of a U.S. invasion of Iraq, because of its colonial overtones. But there is a part of many young Arabs today that prays the U.S. will not only oust Saddam but all other Arab leaders as well.

Thinking About Iraq (I)

It is not unreasonable to believe that if the U.S. removed Saddam and helped Iraqis build not an overnight democracy but a more accountable, progressive and democratizing regime, it would have a positive, transforming effect on the entire Arab world -- a region desperately in need of a progressive model that works.

And liberals need to take heed. Just by mobilizing for war against Iraq, the U.S. has sent this region a powerful message: We will not leave you alone anymore to play with matches, because the last time you did, we got burned. Just the threat of a U.S. attack has already prompted Hezbollah to be on its best behavior in Lebanon (for fear of being next). And it has spurred Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to introduce a proposal to his fellow Arab leaders for an "Arab Charter" of political and economic reform.

Let me sum up my argument with two of my favorite sayings. The first is by Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, who says: "In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car." It is true of countries as well. Until the Arab peoples are given a real ownership stake in their countries -- a real voice in how they are run -- they will never wash them, never improve them as they should.

The second is an American Indian saying -- "If we don't turn around now, we just may get where we're going." The Arab world has been digging itself into a hole for a long time. If our generation simply helps it stop digging, possibly our grandchildren and its own will reap the benefits. But if we don't help the Arabs turn around now, they just may get where they're going -- a dead end where they will produce more and more undeterrables.

This is something liberals should care about -- because liberating the captive peoples of the Mideast is a virtue in itself and because in today's globalized world, if you don't visit a bad neighborhood, it will visit you.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 22, 2003

A racist conference, full of lies

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

September 9, 2001 Sunday

Final EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED,; Tommy Schnurmacher; Column

Length: 792 words

Byline: TOMMY SCHNURMACHER

Body

The United Nations is certainly having a busy fall season. First of all, it organized the World Conference against Racism, which succeeded in ignoring real racism to focus its attentions on its goal of whipping up hatred against Israel, which remains the only democracy in the Middle East. Now that the conference is out of the way, it's all set to appoint the totalitarian, terrorism-sponsoring regime of Syria to the Security Council.

The UN's anti-Israel bias is nothing new. On the occasion of the UN's 50th anniversary, this august world body came up with a World War II resolution that noted millions had "perished" but ignored Israel's request to make specific reference to the Holocaust and destruction of European Jewry.

Freelance

More than 150 nations attended the Durban conference, which lasted more than a week. During that entire time, there were precious few suggestions urging Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate. Instead, there was relentless criticism of Israel.

No one issued declarations denouncing the many murders committed by Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Not one word about Syrian terror against Christians in Lebanon. No mention of the way women and Hindus are treated by the Taliban.

Not a peep about human-rights abuses by Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe or Cuba's Fidel Castro. And, of course, everyone has long forgotten that it was attendee Jesse Jackson who had once referred to New York City as Hymietown.

A couple of years ago, Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, issued a righteous-sounding statement in which she emphasized the importance of targeting "hate sites on the Internet and youth groups promoting intolerance and xenophobia."

These hate sites would have had a tough time outdoing the anti-Semitic rhetoric spewing forth from Durban.

And if Robinson is so worried about youth groups promoting intolerance and xenophobia, why is she so silent about those who promise teenagers the favours of 70 virgins if they become suicide bombers who kill Jews?

The UN conference, of course, is not without its admirers. Neo-Nazi groups around the world have had, until now, to content themselves with peddling their vile hate on obscure Web sites.

A racist conference, full of lies

They could not have afforded to spend millions of dollars to pay for an international conference and were pleased to have the UN and world governments pick up the tab.

These same neo-Nazis must also have been delighted to see the University of Bonn is hoping to attract students by showing off about one of its most famous alumni: Nazi propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels.

A university brochure described Goebbels as a "a student of the philosophy department from 1917 to 1918." It did not mention his virulent hatred of Jews, but did point out that "from 1933 to 1945, the close friend of Hitler became propaganda minister and was responsible for Gleichschaltung, the forcing into line of the media and cultural life."

Goebbels would have appreciated the cartoons that appeared in Durban of hook-nosed Jews, and he certainly would have been thrilled with any conference where Jewish delegates were isolated and intimidated. One wonders however what even he would have made of pamphlets headlined "Down with the Nazi-Israel Apartheid!" that were distributed at the conference centre by the Afro-Brazilian National Congress.

Professional apologists for the Palestinian cause often make excuses for the murder of innocent Israeli civilians by claiming such actions are a result of the desperation caused by occupation. They do not, of course, mention the occupation occurred when Israel had to defend itself against Arab aggression. Nor will they mention Israel captured the Sinai from Egypt yet handed it back in exchange for peace.

But back to the conference.

The Canadian delegation, headed by Hedy Fry, also included Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who is an internationally acclaimed human-rights activist.

Wednesday's Toronto Globe and Mail noted "the normally outspoken Mr. Cotler is not allowed to speak to reporters: Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Hedy Fry is the only authorized spokesperson for the Canadian delegation."

Not quite.

Thursday's Gazette quoted Cotler, who said: "This is becoming the kind of conference in which everybody believes they are a victim and everybody believes that somebody else is the victimizer. In that kind of situation, the real victims are not heard, and the real victimizers are sometimes not identified."

Hedy Fry is a shameless politician who lied about racism. She was the perfect representative to send to a racist conference that was full of lies.

- Tommy Schnurmacher is heard weekdays 9 a.m. to noon on CJAD 800 radio. His E-Mail address is: tommys@total.net.

Load-Date: September 9, 2001

Maimed soldier prepared to go back and lose other leg

The Irish Times

September 6, 2004

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Section: World; Other World Stories; Pg. 10

Length: 1241 words

Byline: Lara Marlowe

Body

AcrossAmerica: Sgt Luke Wilson of the First Cavalry Division has not received his purple heart yet. The US army is organising a ceremony in the wounded soldier's home state of Oregon, and Wilson hopes the medal will be awarded by President Bush himself.

He'd be delighted if it won a few more votes for Bush. "Any way I can help him I will. The Bush family have done so much for the military," says Wilson.

Try to understand this: since Bush invaded Iraq, 1,013 US soldiers have been killed there, and another 6,987 wounded. Like Wilson, most of the wounded, heralded as "warriors and heroes" on the banner welcoming them to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, have lost limbs. And they love Bush. Perhaps they don't want to believe it was all for nothing. A steady diet of Fox News and distrust of Senator John Kerry only partly explain why they intend to vote for Bush in November.

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When he was still in high school, Wilson's father, an Oregon state police officer, and his mother, a government employee, offered to buy him a truck and pay his way through college if he'd forget about the army. "I'm very patriotic. I love jumping out of airplanes. I love going out on a mission, taking the weapons back to the barracks and going to the bars with the guys," he explains now. His parents reluctantly gave permission for Wilson to join up at 17.

A medical doctor who disagrees with Bush and his Iraq war had agreed to take me into Walter Reed, so I could see for myself the human cost of the conflict. But he lost his nerve, fearing for his government job, and I had to talk my way through the security gate alone.

The doctor's timidity contrasted with the certainties proclaimed by Wilson, five months after he was maimed in Baghdad. I met the wheelchair-bound 24-year-old in the hospital canteen. No Public Affairs Officer was there to eavesdrop, but Wilson sounded like a recruitment advertisement.

Had he known he would lose his left leg in Iraq, Wilson said, he would still join. "If the government would let me, I'd go back and lose my right leg," he claims. "If I can be there guarding my buddies' backs, I'm doing something worthwhile." Is he angry about his lost leg? "I'm a little pissed off I'm not over there still," Wilson continues. "I joined the army looking for combat and I was taken out after two days."

Maimed soldier prepared to go back and lose other leg

Wilson's 30-vehicle convoy was crossing a bridge from the Green Zone in Baghdad on the night of April 8th, the eve of the anniversary of the fall of the regime, when insurgents began firing rocket-propelled grenades from abandoned buildings on both sides of the road. He relishes recounting the sudden explosions; the sky lit up with tracer fire; return fire by his machine-gunner; a silhouette on the corner of a rooftop; a white flash.

Then "everything went totally white and just hot." Wilson had been leaning on his left knee to fire his M4 assault rifle. "The RPG went through my calf and lodged in the other side of the vehicle," he recounts. "I knew there was something wrong when my knee moved all the way forward . . . it was just dangling. The RPG cauterised the wound, but the artery was pouring blood. My guys panicked; I had to tell them how to make a tourniquet."

After his leg was amputated in Baghdad, Wilson was moved to the US base at Balad for transfer to Landstuhl, Germany, then Walter Reed.

As he lay strapped to a stretcher, the morphine barely denting his pain, insurgents mortared the base all night. "I was more pissed off than scared," he says now. "Three or four rounds would impact. They'd wait five minutes and start again. The nurses were crawling around on the floor."

Wilson says his "positive attitude" has made him popular with US authorities. He was guest of the chief-of-staff at the army ball, and has toured the White House three times during his rehabilitation. For him, losing a leg is less tragic than the end of life with his "band of brothers". He is resigned to building a house in Oregon with his fiancée Tonya and going to college. He will receive 60 per cent of his base salary of \$2,310 per month for the rest of his life.

"I already got a prosthesis," Wilson boasts. "It's in my room charging right now. The leg itself costs anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000. It's got hydraulics in it and the computer works in two different modes, one for walking and one that swings, so I can ride a bike. I'm going to get a swimming leg and a running leg."

When Kerry visited the hospital, a secret service agent asked Wilson if he'd like to shake his hand. "I said, 'I got nothing to say to that piece of shit.' They had to get me out of there - fast. I mean this guy earns all these medals in Vietnam, which was honourable, and then he goes and throws them at the White House." He accuses Kerry of voting against body armour for the military.

Bush supporters denounce "liberal bias" in the media. Wilson calls CNN - hardly outraged critics of the Bush administration - "the communist news network".

Virginia Sanchez, whose son Michael is at Walter Reed after losing a leg in Iraq last month, told me: "We got too many reporters in war zones. It gives too much information that should be kept secret, that's getting out to the terrorists."

Wilson's world-view is shaped by Fox News and never quite meshes with reality: Arabs perpetrated the hostage siege in southern Russia last week, he tells me. There was a Hizbullah base in northern Iraq; the US found traces of nerve agents on Iraqi artillery shells; Bush did his utmost to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by "offering the road map".

Wilson believes that Arabs from the entire region, not just Iraq, are fighting US troops. "I'm not sure why they feel the need to do it," he shrugs.

The results of the insurgency were all around us in the canteen: a soldier propped the stub of his left leg on a shelf while he consumed a cheeseburger with his wife; a soldier with a swollen, disfigured face and a black eye-patch sat at another table.

Virginia Sanchez (62) and her daughter Ramona (27) had brought People magazine and a "best of Mozart" CD for Michael, who is waiting to learn whether doctors will amputate his second leg. A demolitions expert, Michael was maimed by booby-trapped debris in Samarra.

Virginia is a cook in a home for foster children. Ramona runs a beauty salon. The women feel no bitterness towards the US administration, but are shocked by the "ingratitude" of Iraqis. They don't understand why Iraqis do

Maimed soldier prepared to go back and lose other leg

not want US troops in their country. "If I was one of the people that wanted freedom, I'd want us there," says Virginia.

There is just a hint of confusion. Ramona felt angry towards anti-war protesters in 2003. "At first we were so supportive," she says. "I don't know anymore. There's so much we can't know, that the military won't tell us."

If the Sanchez family are a barometer, John Kerry doesn't stand a chance in November. Virginia voted for Bill Clinton and Al Gore in the last two elections. This time she's voting for Bush. Ramona did not vote in 2000. She doesn't trust Kerry. "I think he's just saying things to get people to vote for him," she says. "He's not really for the people." On the other hand, Bush "stands for his beliefs," Ramona says. "He's very Christian and that's important to me."

Tomorrow: one of President Bush's most outspoken critics gives his views on civil liberties and his success in defending the rights of the Guantanamo Bay detainees

Load-Date: October 27, 2004

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The leadership that's lacking is in the Arab world

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

October 9, 2003 Thursday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 21A; LETTER

Length: 1843 words

Series: LETTERS

Body

Re: An absence of leaders, editorial, Oct. 7.

It occurs to me that if the St. Petersburg Times believes that every leader in the current Middle East conflict is inadequate, then perhaps it is the Times that has an inadequate grasp of the true nature of the Middle East conflict.

Two of the current leaders are democratically elected, Ariel Sharon and George W. Bush, and the rest are not. Those who are democratically elected represent the will of their people. The Israelis elected Sharon because they had tried the techniques you espouse as "leadership." These approaches - giving away land, ignoring the other side's military buildup, and engaging in unconditional negotiations - were miserable failures, and the Israeli people refuse to negotiate under this formula any longer. President Bush, to his credit, refuses to make exceptions to his war against terrorism in order to prod the Israelis into more pointless negotiations.

More "leadership" is desperately needed. The Palestinians need leadership that will not only fight terrorism but also stop hate-inspired education, media-inspired incitement, and provide transparent government with due process. The Arab world needs democracy, due process and equal rights for women and homosexuals. Demanding across-the-board "leadership" without recognizing the cause of the problem and the need for the will of peoples to be expressed and respected is hollow and smacks of political correctness.

Jonathan D. Reich, Lakeland

Taking a stand for peace

Re: Pilots to be disciplined for protest, Sept. 26.

Applause, cheers, hooray and amen! I want to congratulate the Israeli pilots who signed the letter refusing to participate in the bombing of Palestinian terrorist leaders when it is reliably known that these raids will cause collateral damage to civilians. These brave men have put morals above their careers.

I hope that most Israelis agree with them. I would also like to believe that when viewed by Palestinians and other Muslims around the world it is accepted that because a government can't compromise, the individual person can.

Hopefully, this will inspire those backing the Palestinian effort to rethink peaceful solutions. The Mideast problem cannot be decided by killing. It must be gained by the individual taking a stand for peace.

The leadership that's lacking is in the Arab world

Michael Mitchell, Oldsmar

Dedicated to Israel's destruction

Re: Syria hit shows Israel is stuck, Oct. 7.

Susan Taylor Martin's incisive column highlighting the problem posed by Syria is very timely. Our government has made it clear that Syria harbors and supports terrorists. Despite our warnings, Syria continues its support of terrorist groups, such as Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The hypocritical United Nations and its European and Arab supporters even have the gall to give Syria a key role in the United Nations.

Of particular interest to us in the Tampa Bay area is the fact that Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, the current head of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, was brought to Tampa as an "Islamic scholar" by Sami Al-Arian, the University of South Florida professor in jail awaiting trial on terrorism charges. Shallah continues to dispatch homicide bombers from his sanctuary in Syria. It should be noted that Shallah would not allow the name Israel to be used in his classes at USF. In 1996 Shallah wrote that Palestinians would "not concede a single meter" of land to Israel.

As for the suggestion that perhaps a charismatic Palestinian like Marwan Barghouti might provide an answer to the problem, this appears to be wishful thinking as he has sponsored terror and, like Arafat and Shallah, seems dedicated to the destruction of Israel and the creation of an Arab Palestine in its place.

What should be clear to those with open minds is the fact that Israel is willing to accept an Arab Palestine that poses no threat to its existence. What, sadly, is equally clear is that there is no Palestinian leader willing to accept the existence of the Jewish state of Israel in its ancient homeland.

Norman N. Gross, president, PRIMER, chairperson,

Anti-hate Committee, Greater Florida B'nai B'rith,

Palm Harbor

Israel's foes are many

Re: Syria hit shows Israel is stuck.

Susan Martin's column regarding the Israeli strike on Syria is off the mark on several key points.

First, Martin describes those Palestinians who wish to replace Israel with a fundamentalist Islamic state as "a small but radical faction." Radical they certainly are but both Jewish and Palestinian polls show that Hamas enjoys popularity equal to Arafat's. Four separate Jerusalem Media and Communication Center polls in 2002 each found that more than 4 in 10 Palestinians favored liberating "all of historical Palestine," which just happens to include Israel. Those factions can hardly be considered "small."

Martin's idea that Israel negotiate with the Islamic terror groups in a manner that the British did with the Irish Republican Army is faulty in comparison. The IRA sought only independence, not to replace England with a fundamentally religious state. Israel is facing a large faction that wants no compromise, and who see the West Bank as a stepping stone to Tel Aviv.

Greg Buete, St. Petersburg

The leadership that's lacking is in the Arab world

Israel is protecting itself

Re: Israel and the Palestinians.

If Mexico or Canada were launching terrorist homicide bombings from within their borders upon U.S. citizens in our territory, would the United Nations call for America to be restrained in our response? And would the United States even listen to those absurd suggestions? Of course not!

Those who would blame Israel for protecting its own population from terrorists are delusional in denying the facts.

Here's a fact that is undeniable:

If the Palestinians laid down their arms, they would get peace, and would achieve their goal of statehood. If Israelis laid down their arms, they would get annihilated.

Except for the death of innocents, terrorism achieves nothing.

Jeff Cabaniss, Cocoa

U.S. needs to wake up

Re: Israel to build homes in West Bank and Crying for choices in the Middle East, by Thomas L. Friedman, Oct. 3.

It appears our government's policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is in complete disarray; the American-backed road map to peace is defunct.

The Israeli Housing Ministry announced plans to build 600 new homes in three large Jewish settlements in the West Bank. This follows by one day the Israeli government decision to continue building a wall deep within the West Bank to guard Jewish settlements.

The Bush administration made no formal condemnation of Israel's actions. Israel's prime minister has been a leading proponent of settlement building for decades.

In a poll by Zogby International in the October issue of The Link, a publication of Americans for Middle East Understanding, it was reported that Arab attitudes toward Americans and American culture were positive. However, 72 percent of those polled said the Palestinian issue was the most important in the Middle East, and 89 percent disapproved of U.S. policy toward the Palestinians.

Tom Friedman, normally a supporter of Israel, concludes his article on choices as follows: "a vast majority of Israelis want a decent, normal society, but their ideologically driven leaders are lost in space And the Bush team, which should be acting as a reality check, has fallen so deep into the pocket of Ariel Sharon you can't even find it anymore."

We seem to have fallen asleep on the Israeli-Palestinian problem while focusing on Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Syria. We don't seem to be listening to the people who live in the area. I hope we wake up.

Joseph A. Mahon, St. Petersburg

Turning a blind eye to terrorism

At the United Nations a Security Council resolution has been introduced for Israel to stop committing acts that could threaten regional security. Who's kidding whom? The United Nations has always turned a blind eye to those who have been upsetting the so-called "regional security" for decades. When is the last time the United Nations held any of the Arab nations accountable for the acts of terrorism perpetrated against innocent civilians? When has the

The leadership that's lacking is in the Arab world

United Nations censored the Palestinian Authority, specifically Yasser Arafat concerning his lack of control and indifference over Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and other terrorist cells?

Speaking of Arafat, we are told by Forbes that he is one of the wealthiest men in the world. He is worth millions. Has the United Nations initiated an investigation making him accountable for the millions that he has accumulated in the past few years? Have American taxpayers contributed to this as well?

Just as we Americans and this administration reserve the right to destroy bomb factories and cells of terror in Iraq, so, too, Israel has the right to destroy these same cells before they are used to blow up the lives of Israeli citizens, both Jews and Arabs.

Hela Crown-Tamir, Tarpon Springs

Better way to blunt OPEC

Re: A patriotic tax that we'll never pay, Oct. 7.

Tom Friedman is a great journalist and an expert on the Middle East. I've enjoyed his columns and books for years.

Unfortunately, when he strays from his field of expertise, he runs onto the rocks. In this column he promotes the idea of a \$1 per gallon tax on gasoline as a means of achieving a host of good things. He fails to measure the effects of an increased tax on the current recovering economy and, further, panders to the Luddites of the radical environmental groups.

Contrary to his argument, the way to defang OPEC is to cut the price of fuel by drilling for more of it at home and getting more of it from other non-OPEC suppliers. Any Econ 101 student knows that if the market is flooded with lots of oil, the price will inevitably drop. That's the approach to put a crimp in OPEC and also the way to provide for the longer-term benefits of all consumers worldwide.

So, Tom, forget the tax and go for helping the investments in Kurgistan, Russia, and other places that have enormous reserves of oil and get on board the drilling initiative in the northern wastes of the Alaskan arctic. By these means we could blunt OPEC and also have plenty of oil to burn as we each see fit while keeping our economy growing.

John J. Christman, Tierra Verde

Energy bill seeks short-term answers

Re: Back president's energy bill, letter, Oct. 7.

American dependence on foreign oil is a great cause for concern. But instead of likening environmentalism to fanaticism, blaming Democrats, and promoting the president's energy bill, why don't we look at the real reason we are in this mess?

There are new technologies and better, cleaner energy sources that have been discovered or are just waiting to be discovered. Too many interest groups like oil companies put such considerable pressure on the government that other fuel options are barely explored and rarely developed.

The president's energy bill is only interested in short-term solutions. Raping our natural resources to drain that last drop of oil will only buy a little more time. Do we really want to leave future generations an even bigger mess?

Janna Roman, Dunedin

Graphic

CARTOON, DON ADDIS; "FINAL NOTE:" Two Austrians standing in the hills of Hollywood, Calif. One shouts "RECALL-AAAAH!" as the other blows a large horn labeled "CALIFORNIA CARNY-COPIA."

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End of Document

1983 Beirut bomb began era of terror

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah)

October 19, 2003, Sunday

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Section: WIRE;

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Byline: By Scott Dodd and Peter Smolowitz Knight Ridder Newspapers

Body

A truck bomb ripped through the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut 20 years ago this week, marking the first major assault in a two-decade terrorist war of embassy bombings and plane hijackings that culminated on Sept. 11, 2001.

The shocking attack killed 241 U.S. servicemen in a single strike -- more than died on the deadliest day of fighting in Vietnam, this year's invasion of Iraq or the entire 1991 Persian Gulf War.

And it gave terrorists a major victory. The bombing drove the military from its peacekeeping mission in Lebanon and provided a blueprint for attacking Americans. The retreat of U.S. forces inspired Osama bin Laden and sent an unintended message to the Arab world that enough body bags would prompt Western withdrawal, not retaliation.

"There's no question it was a major cause of 9/11," said John Lehman, the then-secretary of the Navy, who today is a member of the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

"We told the world that terrorism succeeds."

About 2,000 Beirut veterans and family members will gather Thursday at Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina, where most were stationed in 1983. They will mourn fallen comrades and remember a doomed mission.

At best, they believe, the world has forgotten their sacrifices. At worst, they fear they'll always be considered a failure -- and the painful lessons of their tragedy will be ignored.

"It was such a useless, fruitless thing," says Brian Kirkpatrick, a Beirut survivor who crawled his way out of the rubble. "We gained nothing. We lost everybody."

But in the halls of the Pentagon and the State Department, Beirut has not been forgotten, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told The Charlotte Observer. Many of the leaders from 20 years ago -- who now serve President Bush -- work to avoid a repeat of the disaster as they plan the military missions of today.

Bush reminded Americans of the tragedy in a prime-time speech last month. He urged the country to prepare for a long and costly effort to rebuild Iraq and not to repeat the mistake of leaving before the job was done.

"What would happen if we left this business unfinished," Armitage said, "is an Iraq that would become more of a threat -- sort of an Iraq unchained."

1983 Beirut bomb began era of terror

The Beirut bombing taught the United States more about protecting troops and picking battles. Using the military for peacekeeping, leaders learned, can be just as hazardous as fighting a well-defined enemy.

But as the U.S. death toll in Iraq rises, critics of the Bush administration question whether those lessons are being heeded, or if the United States has been set up for another failure at the cost of American lives.

In 1983, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger didn't want the Marines in Beirut.

They'd gone in the year before to calm fears that Lebanon's civil war could spark a battle engulfing the entire Middle East. The Marines' role was to evacuate Palestinian fighters and prevent an invasion from neighboring Israel.

U.S. diplomats promised the safety of Palestinian families who remained. But after the Marines finished their job and withdrew in 1982, thousands of Palestinians -- largely women, children and the elderly -- were massacred by Israeli-backed Lebanese militia.

An embarrassed State Department persuaded President Ronald Reagan to send the Marines back, hoping their mere presence in Lebanon would prevent further bloodshed and salvage the peace plan. Weinberger fought the decision.

To signal they were neutral in the civil war, the Marines were stationed between warring factions. They made their base at Beirut International Airport -- the tactically unwise low ground.

They carried weapons, but the rules of engagement mostly forbade them from keeping a round in the chamber. They had orders not to shoot unless they were direct targets and knew for sure who had fired first.

But by trying to keep order in Beirut, the Marines and U.S. diplomats were seen as allies of Lebanon's unpopular government and became targets of snipers, shellings and car bombings.

In April 1983, terrorists smashed a stolen GMC pickup loaded with explosives into the U.S. Embassy, killing 63 people, including 17 Americans.

Six months later, the truck bomb at the Marine barracks killed 241 U.S. troops.

After the barracks bombing, Reagan had a choice: Commit more forces to Lebanon only nine years after Vietnam, when public support for a long military conflict was low, or retreat.

"It's a hard thing to say, it's a hard thing to accept, but we had lost," said Ryan Crocker, the political officer in the Beirut embassy, who later became Deputy Secretary of State for Near East Affairs. "The situation would not have gotten any better. We would have had more dead Marines."

To political and military leaders in the United States, the pullout made sense. With a crippled Marine battalion and no clear military target, some thought withdrawal was the only option.

"You can't police the world," said P.X. Kelley, the then-Marine commandant. "Sometimes the best option is to do nothing."

But to terrorists and their backers, it was a sign of weakness, confirming their belief that the Americans had no staying power. The Syrian prime minister had told Morris Draper, a special presidential emissary, just months before: "You Americans can't hold your breath."

The U.S. response to the barracks bombing was limited. Despite indications that it was carried out by the radical Islamic group Hezbollah and backed by Iran, a planned U.S. military mission to bomb terrorist training camps was never carried out.

Top Reagan officials disagree on why. Weinberger says a conclusive link to Iran and Hezbollah was never proven. McFarlane said Weinberger was too concerned about the political risks of failure and losing support from U.S. allies in the Arab states.

1983 Beirut bomb began era of terror

Either way, critics say the lack of retaliation cemented America's weak image in the Arab world.

"If we had struck back and pulled out," said Bill Cowan, part of a top secret intelligence team sent to investigate the bombings, "we wouldn't have been leaving with our tail between our legs."

Two decades of Arab-backed terrorism have followed the bombings of the Marine barracks and the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

American soldiers are "paper tigers," Osama bin Laden told ABC News in 1998. "The Marines fled after two explosions."

Using the Beirut bombings as a guide, terrorists:

- attacked American embassies in Kuwait two months later, and Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, killing 307 Americans and others.

- hijacked TWA Flight 847 for 17 days in 1985, taking hostages and killing a Navy diver.

- exploded Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 270.

- bombed the World Trade Center in 1993, killing six and wounding about 1,000.

- killed 19 Americans in the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers, a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia. The attack also wounded more than 370 Americans and Saudis.

- struck the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others.

- flew hijacked planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people.

In those cases and dozens more, terrorists exploited unconventional methods and Western openness. And in almost every case until Sept. 11, the U.S. military response was minimal.

For bin Laden and other terrorist leaders, Beirut showed how to attack a larger force and inflict the maximum damage -- physical and psychological. Terrorism experts say manuals found in al-Qaida's Afghanistan training camps were filled with references to Beirut.

"The fact is, today, the people who ran that operation are heroes" among terrorist groups, "and nothing has ever been done against them," said Lehman, the former Navy secretary. "Not retaliating was a terrible blunder."

While terrorists took their lessons from Beirut, the Pentagon learned more about when to send troops and how to protect them.

"Culturally, it changed the military," said Phil Anderson, a former Marine and terrorism expert.

Weinberger summed up the lessons in a 1984 speech. The main points of what became known as the "Weinberger Doctrine" were restated after the first Gulf War by Colin Powell, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: The United States should commit troops only when vital national interests are at stake, only as a last resort, and with overwhelming force.

"It has to be for a sufficiently important cause," Weinberger told The Charlotte Observer.

The doctrine has been modified -- and sometimes ignored -- over the years, but the Beirut lessons still had a major impact:

Commanders insisted on more clearly defined missions with sufficient force to carry them out and a way to determine when troops could go home.

1983 Beirut bomb began era of terror

"You don't halfstep it," said Jay Farrar, a former Marine captain who served in Beirut and is now a military expert for the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "You deal swiftly and with a tremendous amount of force."

Policymakers realized that "presence" is not a mission, and commanders became increasingly reluctant to commit troops to peacekeeping efforts unless they were welcomed by all sides. Armitage cited the recent example of the U.S. role in Liberia, when both sides in a civil war requested American troops.

The concept of "force protection" came of age after the barracks attack. Rules of engagement are less limiting, and security around U.S. forces is tighter.

"We go in heavy," said P.J. Crowley, a retired Air Force colonel and former special assistant for national security affairs to President Clinton. "We have a plan for protecting our forces."

Crowley and other critics of the Bush administration say that's where planning for the occupation of Iraq has failed. War planners didn't send enough U.S. troops and failed to win enough support from other countries.

"We did the war without completely understanding how to do the peace," Crowley said. "We're ad hocing the peace."

More U.S. servicemen have died in Iraq since the end of major combat operations was declared May 1 than during the six-week invasion. Terrorist car bombings have ripped through the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters and other civilian targets.

A recent survey by the military newspaper Stars and Stripes found many troops in Iraq expressing sentiments similar to their Beirut counterparts. Roughly a third said their morale was low and their mission ill-defined. They characterized the war in Iraq as having little value.

But Armitage, the deputy secretary of state, said there are key differences between the mistakes in Lebanon and Iraq today.

"In Lebanon, we didn't have a clear mission," he said. "We didn't understand the complexities."

In Iraq, he said, the troops have that clear mission -- creating stability. Two-thirds of servicemen agreed in the Stars and Stripes poll. And other policymakers argue that troops need to stay until that mission is accomplished.

"There would be lingering perceptions of Beirut today if we pulled out of Iraq prematurely," said Dennis Ross, a Middle East envoy under two presidents. "The perception would be the U.S. intervenes, but it does not stay."

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Return to Lebanon; UNTAMED DESTINATIONS

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

September 19, 2004 Sunday

Late Edition

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Length: 822 words

Byline: FIONA O'BRIEN

Body

Some places just aren't for your average traveller untamed destinations where package tours rarely venture and things don't always go according to plan. But we know that some of our readers have a strong adventurous streak. This occasional series is for you and for the rest of us who like to read, from the comfort of an armchair, about the things that others dare to do.

THE website instructs tourists to "Rediscover Lebanon". It promises beaches, ski slopes, ruins, night-life something for everyone packaged in a tiny country more often remembered for its war and kidnappings.

But the tourists are responding. From rich Saudis seeking a summer away from the Gulf's hot deserts to fashionable Europeans wanting memories more exotic than a package tour to Majorca, holiday-makers are hitting Lebanon to see for themselves.

Lebanon was once known as the Switzerland of the Middle East, its capital Beirut as an oriental Paris. Torn apart by civil war from 1975 to 1990, its appeal foundered. Hotels were shelled, foreigners taken hostage, streets ruled by snipers.

More than a decade later, Lebanon wants to put that past behind it. In 2004, Beirut spent about \$1 million on a series of slick ads which, with the website www.rediscoverlebanon.com, aim to revive that magnetism.

Tourism statistics suggest the drive is working.

In the first five months of the year before the main summer season there were 48 per cent more tourists than in the same period last year. Arrivals are creeping back to pre-war levels.

Minister for Tourism Ali Hussein Abdullah said the most encouraging signal was that in April and May the number of European tourists exceeded the number of Arabs for the first time since the war.

"Before the war we always had more European than Arab tourists, except in the summer when many Gulfis come," he said.

"Everything went up this year, those from Africa, from America, but it was the Europeans that were really remarkable."

Return to Lebanon UNTAMED DESTINATIONS

Summer in Lebanon still belongs to Arabs from the Gulf. Plush hotels in the mountains outside Beirut flood with Saudis and Kuwaitis, four-wheel-drives with Gulf number plates and tinted windows clog the roads.

On Beirut's Hamra shopping street, Gulf women enveloped in their black hijab dress weave their way between young Lebanese women in barely-there skirts and stilettos. There may be cultural differences, but there is still an Arab appeal.

"We have been here a lot of times because it's an Arab country," said one Saudi too shy to give her name.

Last year, 160,000 Saudis visited Lebanon, 16 per cent of all tourists.

"We are comfortable here. People are nice, we see other Saudis and there are mountains."

Part Muslim, part Christian, part Druze, Lebanon has an anything-goes attitude integral to the image it is trying to rebuild. Superficially at least, tradition sits comfortably beside modernity, cultures mix but avoid clashing. Lebanon packs a lot within its borders. The food is famous, night-life is buzzing, the climate kind. And it's so small, visitors really can ski and swim on the same day.

Elisabeth Balthay, a French lawyer working in London, came to Lebanon for a holiday, inspired by her father's tales of the Baalbek, Byblos and Beirut he visited often before the war.

"Most people are under the impression that Beirut is extremely dangerous, filled with Israeli tanks and that the streets are speckled black by masked Hezbollah gunmen looking for Westerners to take hostage," she said.

"I wanted to see the sites of Byblos spanning from the neolithic through to the crusader fortress, Baalbek which was meant to be bigger than the Parthenon, and the hippodrome at Tyre.

"What is good about Lebanon? The food, the quaffable wine, the heat, warm hospitality, and more than anything the sites."

More than a million tourists came to Lebanon in 2003, but Abdullah wants to see that number rise fourfold within five or six years. He wants to see more package tours, more health tourism, more development beyond the country's coastal plain.

He said tourism revenue was roughly 12 per cent of gross domestic product, compared with about 24 per cent in 1974, and sees expansion as a way to help Lebanon out of economic crisis.

"We can't be an agricultural country or an industrial country," he said. "First we have to be a tourist country. I am trying to encourage investors, especially Lebanese who live outside."

Of those, there are plenty. About four million Lebanese live in Lebanon, an estimated 15 million outside. There are more Lebanese in Brazil than at home.

Lebanon would be hard pressed to manage without money spent by the diaspora, but wants its absent citizens to remember where they came from too. Abdullah sees them also as potential advertisement for a country trying to reclaim its tourism crown.

"Last year we had 70,000 French tourists," he said. "But we should get more. We have about 300,000 Lebanese living in France. If every Lebanese could send just one tourist imagine."

Graphic

Return to Lebanon UNTAMED DESTINATIONS

FOUR PHOTOS: CROWD-PULLER: Tourists and locals enjoy a night out in Beirut. Picture: HUSSEIN MALLA/AP
THE ORIENTAL PARIS: Lebanon wants to reclaim its tourism crown. Picture: Reuters

Load-Date: June 20, 2007

End of Document

Iran's Michael Moore, criticized on 2 fronts

The International Herald Tribune

November 30, 2005 Wednesday

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Byline: Nazila Fathi

Dateline: TEHRAN

Body

For years, Massoud Dehnamaki was known widely as the feared enforcer of conservative rules that restricted freedom for women and society.

In recent years, however, he has emerged as Iran's Michael Moore, having directed a documentary on the taboo issue of prostitution and another forthcoming film on soccer as a metaphor of political struggle.

Reformists and conservatives alike harshly criticized Dehnamaki for making the first movie, "Poverty and Prostitution." Conservatives were furious that one of their own had not only highlighted an un-Islamic social pathology but seemed to sympathize with the prostitutes. Reformists believed he exaggerated the problem to make a case against easing Islamic law.

In an interview in his basement office in downtown Tehran, Dehnamaki said both camps had gotten it wrong and denied that his views had undergone a radical transformation.

"I was always concerned about justice in society," he said.

"There was a time that I believed that the people were the problem. But that was a mistake. The real problems are our rulers, who have become used to corruption and cannot fulfill the promises of the early days of the revolution about social justice and equality."

Film critics have pointed to the countless professional shortcomings of the movie, Dehnamaki's first. Not surprisingly, it was never granted a license to be distributed. Instead, bootleg copies have circulated widely and parts of the film were broadcast by opposition television on satellite channels.

In the movie, Dehnamaki interviews more than a dozen prostitutes and many of their customers. All the women tell the same story of poverty and the need to provide for their families.

"We are two sisters working, and we can hardly earn enough to buy food and pay our rent," says a sobbing woman, whose face was covered to hide her identity.

"I sometimes dream of having chicken, or good food, at least once a week," she goes on, wiping away tears. "I have worked at homes where they had so much money that they threw food in the garbage. I always envy people who can eat well."

A woman clad in the traditional head-to-toe chador, who introduces herself as the mother of the two sisters, says she has thought of killing herself and her daughters several times because of the hardship of their lives but she could not find the courage.

Another young woman tells of her sick father who needed surgery. His four daughters had decided to choose lots to see which would go to Dubai, where prostitution pays better, to earn the money to pay for the operation. The job fell to the youngest sister, who returned from Dubai shattered. A woman who loses her virginity before marriage in a traditional family in Iran loses her honor and with it her chances of a good marriage. In the car with Dehnamaki, who is driving her home from the airport, she bursts into tears, saying that she feels betrayed by her sisters.

To convince the women he was not a threat, Dehnamaki changed his conservative appearance, shaving his beard and replacing his baggy, long sleeved shirts with T-shirts. He also began driving a taxi as a way to find his subjects.

Dehnamaki, 36, believes Iran needs to modernize, within the confines of a strict Islam, but not Taliban-style.

"If we are against the Islam that the Taliban introduced, we must be able to offer a good model of the Islam that we believe is the source of compassion and kindness," he said. "But it has to be according to the needs of today so that it would be acceptable to our youth."

Like many in his generation, Dehnamaki fought for three years in the 1980-88 war with Iraq and was scarred by the experience. He was wounded three times and saw many of his comrades die. Trying to do justice to their sacrifice remains his driving force.

After the war ended in 1988, Dehnamaki helped found the extremist Islamic militia Ansar Hezbollah, which is best known for its attacks on pro-democracy demonstrators. But he grew increasingly disenchanted with the course the revolution had taken and quit the group after eight years.

Many formerly stalwart supporters of the 1979 revolution have moderated their views over the years. Most became reformists and joined the movement of President Mohammad Khatami, who favored increasing political and social freedoms. But not Dehnamaki, who remained critical of both the conservative and reformist camps.

There is little question that Dehnamaki has come a very long way from his days as an enforcer. One university professor, Sadigh Sarvestani, called him "a man whose name was once affiliated with the ugliest violence and has now become an artist dealing with the most delicate aspects of art."

It bears mentioning that Sarvestani was speaking at a conference at Tehran University about Dehnamaki's movie and was quoted in Dehnamaki's new magazine. The magazine has published just three issues but already has some high-profile advertisements - a sign, many here say, that he remains well connected.

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News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MAY 11, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A04

Length: 820 words

Body

In the Nation

AP, Miss. paper file suit

over erased Scalia tapes

* The Associated Press and the Hattiesburg (Miss.) American filed a lawsuit yesterday against the U.S. Marshals Service over an incident in April in which a federal marshal erased reporters' recordings of a speech Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave to high school students. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Jackson, Miss. Don Hines, a spokesman for the Marshals Service in Washington, said yesterday that while the agency was aware a lawsuit had been filed, "we have not seen it."

Boston vandals damage

statue of Civil War soldier

* In Boston, vandals toppled a 127-year-old bronze statue of a Civil War soldier, snapping off its head and musket. Authorities believe the 1,000-pound statue on the Boston Common was pushed over Saturday night. The statue of the Union soldier is part of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the city's most elaborate memorial. Officials think the figure can be repaired. Police said yesterday that no arrests had been made.

Despite her birth control,

zoo's orangutan pregnant

* Despite a daily regimen of birth-control pills, Merah the orangutan is pregnant. And St. Louis Zoo officials are uncertain who the father is. "Needless to say, we have a lot of unanswered questions," primate curator Ingrid Porton said. "It's a little embarrassing, I have to admit." Diligent about trying to prevent overcrowding and inbreeding, zookeepers have been giving 35-year-old Merah a daily birth-control pill mixed into yogurt and honey. Porton suspects the mixture either spilled or was swiped by Sugi, her 8-year-old son.

Charged in 12 murders,

News in Brief

man pleads not guilty

* A man accused of strangling 12 women between 1977 and 1993 pleaded not guilty yesterday in a Kansas City, Mo., courtroom filled with victims' families. After Lorenzo Gilyard's arraignment on 12 murder charges, his attorney said additional charges were possible. "It's my understanding that the state is actively reviewing homicides, missing women," said the lawyer, Donald Williams, adding that the last body was found more than 11 years ago and "the experts on serial killings say that you just can't stop."

Speeding SUV clips car,

kills seven in Maine

* A rented SUV was speeding at more than 90 m.p.h. when it clipped a car it was trying to pass and veered out of control, killing seven residents of South Portland, Maine, including four young children, authorities said. The Ford Explorer went airborne, slammed into trees in the median of Interstate 95 and landed on its roof. The crash, which killed the SUV driver and six others in the vehicle, happened Sunday about 10 miles west of Bangor.

In the World

Bush plans trips to Italy,

Normandy next month

* President Bush will make two trips to Europe next month. White House officials said yesterday that Bush's travels will begin in Italy on June 4, the anniversary of the liberation of Rome during World War II. On June 6, he will join other world leaders at Normandy, France, for the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landing. On June 25, he will return to Europe for a summit with the European Union in Ireland, then will travel to Turkey for the NATO summit June 27-29.

Ousted Haitian leader

seeks asylum in S. Africa

* Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has officially asked South Africa for asylum until his personal situation "normalizes," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said yesterday - the first official indication that he intends to go to South Africa after months of speculation as to where he will seek refuge. He was ousted Feb. 29 after a three-week armed revolt and is currently in Jamaica.

Bush to impose sanctions

on Syria over terrorism

* President Bush will order economic sanctions against Syria - perhaps as early as today - for supporting terrorism and not doing enough to prevent militant fighters from entering neighboring Iraq, congressional and administration sources said. Syria has been on the State Department's list of terror-sponsoring nations for supporting groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Exit polls in India vote show

support down for coalition

* As India's three-week-long election ended yesterday, exit polls showed Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's coalition nowhere near the majority it needs to control Parliament and lead the nation for five more years. The vote also could decide the future of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, with opposition leader Sonia Gandhi's Congress party making solid gains and her son, Rahul, entering politics for the first time. Final results are expected Thursday.

Arab ministers to try

again to stage summit

* Arab ministers agreed yesterday to try again to hold an Arab League summit, on May 22 and 23 in Tunisia. Efforts to hold a meeting in March collapsed at the last minute because of differences about the conflict in Iraq, peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians, and a U.S. proposal for political and social reform in the Middle East.

Graphic

PHOTO;

JAMES POULSON, Associated Press

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter arrives at the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry LeConte after the 235-foot vessel struck a rock yesterday 25 miles north of Sitka, Alaska, and began taking on water. All 86 passengers and 23 crew members were evacuated safely from the vessel. Three people were hospitalized.

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End of Document

Thou shalt have democracy, for God and the US

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 5, 2005 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 28

Length: 855 words

Byline: Michael Gawenda

Body

To George Bush, the events in Lebanon add justification to a holy 'mission', writes Michael Gawenda.

WHILE the US Supreme Court this week was considering arguments about whether displays of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and spaces was unconstitutional, George Bush was warning Syria to get out of Lebanon immediately, adding that freedom was given to human beings by a "higher authority".

Given that the US is basically a secular democracy, it is curious how often God is invoked in support of policies - even the privatisation of social security, which Bush says will add to the sum of human freedom, has God's support.

When Antonin Scalia, likely to be the next chief justice of the Supreme Court, says all US institutions derive their legitimacy from God, you understand one reason why there is such tension and conflict between America and an increasingly godless Europe.

In the Bush view of the world, God is not a pragmatist or a foreign policy realist. The US has a God-given mission to spread freedom and liberty and if there have been times when America lost sight of its mission, Bush is determined to ensure that his presidency won't be such a time.

In the past few months, 8 million Iraqis voted in elections where they were threatened with death if they turned up at polling booths. There have been free elections in the West Bank and in Gaza, which saw the moderate Mahmoud Abbas elected president of the Palestinian Authority.

In Egypt, under pressure from the US and from an increasingly emboldened opposition, President Hosni Mubarak announced there would be electoral reform to allow multiple candidates in the presidential election.

Even Saudi Arabia, perhaps the most authoritarian regime in the Middle East, has had limited municipal elections, though women were barred from voting.

And then there's Lebanon where, since the assassination of the former prime minister Rafik Hariri, street protests involving tens of thousands of people and a newly unified opposition demanded the immediate withdrawal of Syrian troops from the country and free elections next month.

No one could have predicted all this and no one could have predicted that the Syrian-backed government, in the face of the continuing protests, would resign in ignominy, bowing to overwhelming people power.

Thou shalt have democracy, for God and the US

Nor could anyone have predicted that Walid Jumblatt, the most senior Lebanese opposition leader who a few months ago said he was happy when US soldiers were killed in Iraq - calling the killing "legitimate and obligatory"- would tell The Washington Post that the war in Iraq and last month's elections had been the trigger for democratic change in the Middle East.

In Washington, the Jumblatt quote has been used repeatedly by Administration officials as proof that Bush was right all along, that democracy would come to the Middle East as a result of the removal of Saddam Hussein.

In the conservative think tanks, where many of the senior fellows are either former Bush Administration officials or close to the Administration, there is triumphalism: Bush and God have been vindicated.

"Our most lethal weapon against the tyrants is freedom and it is now spreading on the wings of democratic revolution", says Michael Ledeen, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "Faster please. The self-proclaimed experts have been wrong for generations. This is a revolutionary moment. Go for it."

While Bush and the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, have, at least in public, been less effusive in taking the credit for the changes under way in the Middle East, Administration officials have made it clear both are more determined than ever to push for democratic change in the region and in Russia and China. Both, officials say, are more convinced than ever that the movement towards democracy in the Middle East, which was not the original justification for the war in Iraq, could not have happened without the removal of Saddam.

While most Democrats welcome the changes in the Middle East, many fear the administration is underestimating the challenges ahead, the things that could go wrong and the possibility that in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, democracy will bring to power Islamic regimes hostile to US interests.

Writing in The New York Times this week, Flynt Leverett, a senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, argued that Administration hawks such as the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, and the Vice-President, Dick Cheney, believe democratic change in the Middle East will mean the establishment of moderate, pro-Western governments that would accommodate Israel and help to project American influence.

Leverett warns this is the least likely outcome of what's happening and that the US should move cautiously with Syria and with Lebanon, lest it triggers a collapse of the Assad regime which, after a period of chaos, would most likely be replaced by an Islamist one. "In Lebanon, any effort to engineer a pro-Western Lebanese government would be resisted by Hezbollah ... in the face of such resistance, efforts to establish a pro-Western government would fail, creating more instability in the region."

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Are we patsies, or what?

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 17, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Norman Webster; Pg. A31; Column

Length: 823 words

Byline: NORMAN WEBSTER

Body

Why are we such patsies? It's a question many of us were muttering into our beer this week, as we watched remnants of the Khadr family return to Toronto to claim their sacred right to free medical care.

True, they are Canadian citizens. They are also one of the more dangerous families on the planet, close personal friends of Osama bin Laden and practising holy warriors in the battle against civilization. Various members are buried in rubbly ground abroad or imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, but there is still son Karim, 14 - wounded right now, but a prime candidate for martyrdom once the Ontario medical system restores him to health.

The Gazette

Too harsh a judgment? Not, surely, for those who watched Karim's mother and sister tell the CBC's Terrence McKenna about the glories of suicide bombing and their glee at the slaughter in New York on Sept. 11.

There is a tendency to ascribe the savagery of Al-Qa'ida and its ilk to the male of the species. Then you see the two hooded Khadr women calmly discussing blowing up innocent people in the name of God. It's a reminder that men are raised, at least initially, by women, and don't get all their murderous impulses from dad.

That Khadr interview was one of the two most discouraging pieces of television I've seen in years. The other was a CBC program on a girl from Kosovo who survived a massacre of 14 members of her family by a pack of marauding Serbs known as Scorpions. Now in Canada, still recovering from 16 bullet wounds, she has identified the animal who led the execution squad - another happy newcomer to Canada.

When this gentleman was confronted, he refused to talk and a pal made a lame joke about the Scorpions being a rock band. Then they drove off, while a Canadian functionary nattered on about the obstacles to getting rid of the murderers among us.

Again, the thought: What patsies we are. Can we really do nothing about this nonsense? Do we really think there is no consequence to opening our doors to brutes and terrorists?

Someone who thinks there is has just published an arresting look at the reality of terrorism. He is Stewart Bell, senior reporter at the National Post, who was in Montreal recently speaking to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs.

In his book, Cold Terror: How Canada Nurtures and Exports Terrorism Around the World, Bell sums up: "Canada has tried to smother terrorism with kindness. ... It is perhaps a typically Canadian approach. But it is wrong, dead wrong."

Are we patsies, or what?

Some developments almost pass belief. Not one but two Canadian prime ministers have been turned into patsy accomplices by cunning terrorists. Jean Chretien made a personal pitch for the Khadr family with the prime minister of Pakistan.

Paul Martin, while finance minister, ignored security advice and attended a Toronto dinner put on by a front for the Tamil Tigers, probably the most dangerous terrorist organization in the world. Fighting for a Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka, the Tigers have carried out more than 160 suicide bombings - more than all other such groups in the world combined, according to Bell. These are people whose Canadian arm - jocularly known as "the Snow Tigers" - provides funds (often extorted), organization and sanctuary to the fighters on the ground.

Some of our willful ignorance almost passes belief. In the wake of the attack on the Twin Towers, Jean Chretien actually told the House of Commons: "I am not aware at this time of a cell known to the police to be operating in Canada with the intention of carrying out terrorism in Canada or elsewhere."

The facts, Bell says, are that there are about 50 active terrorist groups in the country. A former chief of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has said there are more such groups here than anywhere else in the world, with the possible exception of the United States.

And these are not nice people. They include the Sikh terrorists who cold-bloodedly brought down an Air India flight full of Canadians in 1985, killing 329. Bell calls it "Canada's 9/11." The same fanaticism assassinated the editor of the Indo-Canadian Times in Surrey, B.C., the very courageous Tara Singh Hayer, the only such murder in Canadian history.

Then there is Hezbollah, dedicated to the destruction of Israel by any means, no matter how foul and repellently inhuman. Bell takes us with him to the scene of a suicide bombing. We see the nuts and bolts, the bone fragments and body parts, the blown-off legs and patches of red on the ceiling.

These are not nice people. Al- Qa'ida, Bell says, preaches "violence without limits." Its coded word for Americans is White Meat.

"Canada," according to a Russian security official, "is the land of trusting fools." We also have this nice medicare system to put warriors back on their feet and send them out with fresh nuts and bolts to do God's will.

We're patsies; maybe dangerous ones.

Norman Webster is a former editor of The Gazette.

Load-Date: April 17, 2004

KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY!

The Sun
January 13, 2004

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Section: OPINION

Length: 814 words

Byline: Richard Littlejohn

Body

THE BBC has agreed to reinstate Robert Kilroy-Silk after suspending him for describing Arabs as "suicide bombers, limb amputators and women repressors".

But he has had to agree to new producer guidelines designed to prevent him causing offence to anyone. This column sat in on his comeback show.

KILROY: Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the show. Today we're talking about freedom of speech. My first guest this morning has had a tragic life.

He lost an eye and both hands while on missionary work in Afghanistan and has had to subsist on benefits ever since. Please welcome, from the Finsbury Park mosque, Captain Hook.

(Loud applause).

KILROY: I know this is difficult for you, so take your time. What would you like to say to us?

HOOK: Death to the infidel! Death to the Jews! Death to America! Death to the West!

(Even louder applause.) KILROY: You're clearly very upset and that's understandable. I know what you must be going through. Did I mention I'm part Irish?

(AUDIENCE: Death to the infidel! Death to the Jews! Death to America! Death to the West!) KILROY: I feel your pain, I really do. I'll come back to you later in the show. My next guest is from al-Muhajiroun. What would you like to say to the viewers, sir?

AL-MUH: September 11 2001 was a towering day in history -a mighty blow against the Great Satan. It is the duty of the faithful to rise up and join the jihad.

(Riotous cheering).

KILROY: I can tell emotions are running very high on this issue.

AL-MUH: The oppressor must be destroyed. The Jews must be driven into the sea!

(Audience goes berserk).

KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY!

KILROY: Well, you're certainly entitled to your point of view. I'm sure many, many of the people watching will be able to relate to what you are saying.

AL-MUH: Can I just mention that we're holding a recruiting drive in Tipton on Tuesday?

KILROY: Of course you can. I'm from Birmingham, by the way. (Turns to camera). And don't forget, if you're watching at home, if you'd like to make a donation to Hezbollah In Need just ring the number at the bottom of your screen. Our operators are standing by.

(AUDIENCE:Death to Israel!) KILROY: Let's welcome our next guest. It's a pleasure and a privilege to have on Kilroy, a leading QC, a champion of human rights, wife of the Prime Minister, the Wicked Witch herself, Cherie Booth QC.

(Polite hissing from audience) KILROY: Cherie, thanks for coming in. I used to be an MP, too, you know.

Like me, you've got a bit of a reputation for being outspoken on the subject of human rights, haven't you?

WW: Yes, Robert, I have.

KILROY: And I think, also like me, you got yourself in a bit of hot water over something you said to the Saudi ambassador.

WW: All I said, Robert, was that Saudi Arabia had a pretty appalling image in the eyes of the world because of the disgraceful way they treat women.

KILROY: What, exactly, did you mean by that?

WW: Well, for instance, they won't let women drive, deny them the vote, deny them property rights. Women in the Arab world are second-class citizens.

KILROY: Steady on, Cherie. That's a bit harsh. I can fully understand why our audience might easily take exception. I'm surprised an intelligent women like you would rush to judgment without knowing all the facts.

(AUDIENCE:Death to the Wicked Witch!) WW: What I actually meant to say...

KILROY: That's enough. I won't have such vile, offensive language on this show.

HOOK: I object to appearing alongside infidels and half- naked harlots.

This is a deliberate insult to Islam.

KILROY: No offence, Captain. But we do live in a tolerant, multi- racial, multicultural society.

HOOK: Not where I come from, we don't.

KILROY: What, Finsbury Park?

HOOK: Infidel dog! (spits on studio floor).

KILROY: My next guest is a young man, Ali, from Salford. He's just volunteered to go to work in Jerusalem as a suicide bomber. That's an interesting career choice.

ALI: I've always wanted to travel and kill Jews.

(AUDIENCE:Death to Israel! Death to The West!) KILROY: Good for you, Ali. So many young people are prepared to sit around on their backsides these days. Not like when I was a young, working class lad in the West Midlands, before I became a famous TV personality and newspaper columnist.

KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY! KILL-ROY!

AL-MUH: We have thousands of martyrs like Ali waiting to bring death to the unbelievers.

(AUDIENCE:Kill, Kill, Kill!) KILROY: And they say modern youngsters are only interested in sex, drugs and mobile phones. That's about all we've got time for. I'd like to thank all my guests, Captain Hook -good luck with the deportation appeal; al-Muhajiroun hope the jihad goes well; Ali -come back and see us when you, er, perhaps not.

(Sound of sirens. Enter boys in blue.) PLOD: You thought you'd got away with it, chummy, didn't you? Robert Kilroy Silk, I am arresting you for possession of an offensive suntan. Now stand still while the sergeant chops your arm off.

KILROY: See you in the morning.

Load-Date: January 14, 2004

End of Document

**The moment of truth for General Musharraf;
India and Pakistan**

The International Herald Tribune

May 28, 2002 Tuesday

Copyright 2002 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 9

Length: 872 words

Byline: Mansoor Ijaz

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Washington has a serious problem in South Asia. Its frontline ally in the war on terror, General Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani leader, looks increasingly like a lame duck dictator who is either unable or unwilling to control imported terrorists bent on generating enough chaos to spark a full-scale war between Pakistan and its nuclear rival, India, in the disputed Himalayan enclave of Kashmir. Terrorists have now attacked India's Parliament, exploded sophisticated bombs outside Kashmir's Capitol Building in Srinagar, and massacred 35 **women** and children in a **Hezbollah**-style bus raid during the past several months. Last week, political assassinations were added to the mix when they gunned down a leading Kashmiri peace activist. Similarly, Pakistan's hardline Islamist generals are on the march again, emboldened by America's inability to stamp out Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda terrorist franchise. Last weekend they conducted provocative nuclear-capable missile tests in a bid to rally support.

International Herald Tribune

The Bush administration's strategic plan to root out extremism from South Asia is threatened with disintegration under the weight of Al Qaeda's retrenchment in the northwestern mountains of Pakistan. Al Qaeda is moving its most battle-hardened warriors into Kashmir to provoke war with India in the hope of obtaining Pakistan's nuclear weapons in the ensuing bedlam. Musharraf's announcement that army troops will now be sent to plug holes along the Line of Control dividing Kashmir is just that -- talk. Rather than fight the terrorists' scourge by intensifying U.S. special forces and intelligence cooperation in hunting down Al Qaeda and Taliban extremists in the northwest, Islamabad is using the threat of redeployment to the Line of Control as a form of diplomatic blackmail. Islamabad's message to Washington is clear: Make India back down or we won't cooperate. Kashmir is rapidly transforming into South Asia's West Bank, an impoverished place where India's failure to implement just, democratic solutions for people it calls its own has nurtured a new generation of Pakistani-trained extremists willing to march to Al Qaeda's beat.

It is no longer a struggle for indigenous Kashmiris to determine their own political fate. Indian military raids into Pakistani-held Kashmir to stamp out terrorist training camps and militant hideouts are now all but certain in the coming weeks. The only questions remaining are whether the Indian move will provoke Islamabad's militant generals into risking nuclear war and whether Washington has prepared a response to force Musharraf and company to back down when the time comes. Calling Islamabad's nuclear bluff is a dangerous game. The key antagonists are mirror images of each other. Musharraf, a New Delhi-born, Urdu-speaking migrant to Pakistan, has

The moment of truth for General Musharraf; India and Pakistan

spent a lifetime trying to persuade his Islamist army colleagues of a hawkish fealty to the Kashmiri cause. His fear of their reaction against him, rather than courage to make peace with India in spite of them, lay at the heart of the Agra summit's failure last year. Any action he takes now that is perceived as soft on Kashmir is a sure recipe for his removal from power and will only stiffen his resolve to take the Indians on, with nuclear weapons if necessary. Lal Krishna Advani, the hawkish home minister and heir-apparent to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India, is a Karachi-born Hindu migrant to India who has adopted an unusually belligerent policy in dealing with Kashmiri militants of late as compensation for his policy failure in the west Indian state of Gujarat. Earlier this year, Muslims were massacred by Hindus there. Advani has scuttled each of Vajpayee's serious attempts at diplomacy in Kashmir during the past two years. With friends like these, the Bush White House needs no new enemies in South Asia. Washington has spent too much political capital since Sept. 11 in Islamabad getting behind Musharraf's ambition, rather than getting him behind a blueprint for rebuilding his country's institutions. If the United States is to persuade India that igniting war in the Himalayas will serve no other purpose than to strengthen Al Qaeda's drive for regional chaos and, ultimately, control of Pakistan's unsecured nuclear materials, it will first have to send these clear directives to the junta in Islamabad:

Shut down terrorist training camps, as identified by U.S. intelligence in 30 days. Then, stop feigning moral support for mujahidin and jihadi groups and end all official supply lines of arms to them.

Expel pan-Arab extremists from Pakistan in 60 days. Islamabad's intelligence agencies know who these men are, where they hide and how they finance jihad.

Maintain all nuclear weapons in their disassembled form.

Pakistan's growing duplicity in the war on terror no longer deserves carrots from Washington. U.S. leadership demands candor and honesty with Musharraf about a problem that, left unchecked, could irretrievably threaten a fifth of humanity and give the terrorists a victory no one can live with. The writer, a New York financier, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune. [Not to be reproduced without the permission of the author.]

Load-Date: May 28, 2002

Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism

Australian Financial Review

July 18, 2005 Monday

First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Opinion; Pg. 55

Length: 825 words

Byline: Ted Lapkin - Ted Lapkin is director of policy analysis at the Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, a Melbourne think tank.

Body

Appeasement is no way to win a war against Islamic extremists, says Ted Lapkin.

The aftermath of the London terrorist bombings has demonstrated that the anti-war left is severely afflicted by the political equivalent of battered wife syndrome.

Many scarred and bruised victims of spousal abuse have a history of excusing and rationalising the actions of their tormenters. A stubborn unwillingness to accept the proposition that their partners are scoundrels plunges these woeful women into a morass of self-deception that only spawns further violence.

The radical left has shown itself to be similarly blind about the fundamental nature of Islamic extremism. After each al-Qaeda outrage, Western anti-war ideologues are quick to castigate their own countrymen for a catalogue of sins. With a perverse combination of self-loathing and adoration of the enemy, the far-leftist mantra preaches that if only we were nicer, the jihadists could not fail to love us. It's our own fault if Osama bin Laden doesn't realise what good people we are.

All the while, these militant academics, pundits and politicians engage in ridiculous intellectual contortions designed to mitigate the guilt of the terrorist perpetrators. When push comes to shove, some left-wing intellectuals believe Islamic extremism is simply an understandable reaction to the sins of the West.

The streets of Britain's capital city were still damp with innocent blood when this obscene dance of political self-flagellation began. Within hours of the bombings, British author Tariq Ali was blaming these attacks on George Bush and Tony Blair. The architects of the London bombings were exercising their just entitlement to vengeance for the "violence being inflicted on the people of the Muslim world", wrote Ali.

Here, anti-war columnist Phillip Adams sang from the same song sheet on the opinion page of The Australian. "Let's be clear about it," thundered Adams, "the people who died in the subway tunnels and on the bus were victims of the Iraq War." It was Britain's participation in the "murderous folly of an invasion" that killed London commuters, not the bombs planted by Islamic extremists (The Australian, July 12).

Deakin University's Scott Burchill chimed in to decry the hidebound unwillingness of the "imperialist West" to consider the "legitimate grievances" of militant Islam. Until we "stop asserting the superiority of our values", warned Burchill, "we are unlikely to bring these attacks to an end". (AFR Review, July 15).

Radical left is being right stupid over terrorism

But the Spanish experience demonstrates rather conclusively that conciliatory overtures towards al-Qaeda sow the seeds of, not peace, but more terrorism.

After a bloody attack last year on Madrid's rail system, Spain's socialist government submitted to Islamic radical demands and withdrew its troop contingent from Iraq. But PM Jose Zapatero's craven act of capitulation did not necessarily purchase immunity to terrorism for Spain. In mid-June 2005, CNN reported that 16 members of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's network were arrested in Madrid while planning additional bombings against that city.

On September 11, 2001, Americans became aware that they were facing a war against an enemy of a kind they had never before encountered. Through bombings, decapitations and assassinations, it has dawned upon other democratic nations that, like it or not, they too are part of this same conflict.

Our enemies go by such names as al-Qaeda, Jamaah Islamiyah, Hamas and **Hezbollah**. They belong to a global jihadist movement that considers it a religious duty to wage holy Islamic war against the infidels of the West.

This is a war we did not start but that we dare not leave unfinished. We dare not leave it unfinished because our antagonists see the destruction of our civilisation as a necessary precursor to the expansion of their own culture.

Our jihadist enemies are fighting to create a society that looks a lot like Afghanistan under the Taliban. This is a vision that is repugnant to the foundation ideals of free people everywhere. **Women** barefoot, burka-clad, illiterate and unemployed. Christians and Jews barely tolerated as second-class dhimmi citizens. No art, no science. A society dominated by poverty, oppression, backwardness and ignorance.

In the world according to radical Islam, it's the jihadist way or the highway, and these seventh-century dogmas represent the only acceptable outcome to al-Qaeda.

But the far left views the world through a political prism that distorts this essential reality. Fixated by a knee-jerk hostility towards all things American, Ali, Burchill et al refuse to recognise the existence of this conflict, much less the stakes that are involved. Thus, primal hard-leftist instinct is to appease bin Laden rather than oppose him.

Winston Churchill defined an appeaser as "someone who feeds the crocodile in the hopes of being eaten last". The sooner we accept the fact this is a war, the sooner we can go about the task of winning it.

Graphic

PHOTO: A CCTV image shows the London bombers arriving at Luton railway station. Photo: AP

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

Just How Stupid Is Al Qaeda?

New York Sun (Archive)

May 14, 2004 Friday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 818 words

Byline: ANDREW SULLIVAN

Body

This is the really striking thing about the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi execution of Nicholas Berg: Al Qaeda never learns. Listening to the hooded coward shriek on that video and reading what he says can only remind us that these people are (a) vile, (b) as alien to true Islam as the Ku Klux Klan was to the Gospels, (c) pathetic and (d) dumb.

They think they terrify us by this? The gang murder of an unarmed, innocent civilian? And they think that it will add to the shame of Abu Ghraib, demoralize Americans still further, and prompt a withdrawal? In fact, of course, the Berg beheading does a grim but salutary service.

In the midst of our own deserved self-criticism, we are suddenly reminded of the larger stakes, the wider war, why we are in Iraq in the first place. Americans do not in any way excuse Abu Ghraib, but also see that any sort of moral equivalence between our flawed democracy and Islamism's pathological hatred is obscene.

My gut tells me that the Berg video has had more impact on the American psyche than the Abu Ghraib horrors. It is a far more damaging self-inflicted wound to Al Qaeda than Abu Ghraib is to America.

Even Hezbollah has had to distance itself from its fanatical comrades. And the Arab street has been fed so many lurid lies about America in the past few years that it can barely be shocked any more.

In contrast, Americans may have begun to forget the nature of our enemy, so assiduously does our press concentrate on domestic scandal and war setbacks. But now we have been snapped back to consciousness. Bad news for the enemy.

In a purely strategic sense, stiffening American resolve and inflaming American outrage at this juncture is exactly what a smart Al Qaeda would avoid. But there is no such thing as a smart Al Qaeda. Evil can sometimes be stupid, and often is. (Adolf Hitler, we recall, invaded the Soviet Union.)

For our part, we must not take the deeper bait, which is to associate these fanatics with Arabs or Islam as a whole. This is not a war against Islam. It is a war to save Islam from extremism and theocracy. And a democratic Iraq - not run by mullahs - is indispensable to that end.

Profiles in Cowardice - I

Here's the Boston Globe's apology for publishing completely fabricated pictures of alleged GI rapes of Iraqi women, photographs endorsed by the Nation of Islam and apparently taken from hard-core porn sites:

Just How Stupid Is Al Qaeda?

"Editor's Note: A photograph on Page B2 yesterday did not meet Globe standards for publication. The photo portrayed Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner and activist Sadiki Kambon displaying graphic photographs that they claimed showed US soldiers raping Iraqi women. Although the photograph was reduced in size between editions to obscure visibility of the images on display, at no time did the photograph meet Globe standards. Images contained in the photograph were overly graphic, and the purported abuse portrayed had not been authenticated. The Globe apologizes for publishing the photo."

"Not been authenticated"? And this is a paper crying blue murder for accountability in the Abu Ghraib fiasco. How about some real accountability at the Boston Globe?

Profiles in Cowardice - II

Here's how the BBC described the video of the execution of Nicholas Berg: "His killers shouted 'Allah is great' before holding what appeared to be a head up to the camera." What appeared to be his head? Who do they think Zarqawi is, Penn or Teller?

Derbyshire Award Nominee

For right-wing rhetorical hyperbole: "My mental state these past few days: 1. The Abu Ghraib 'scandal': Good. Kick one for me. But bad discipline in the military (taking the pictures, I mean). Let's have a couple of courts martial for appearance's sake. Maximum sentence: 30 days CB." -John Derbyshire, in National Review Online, yesterday, rejoicing in the brutalizing of Iraqi prisoners.

"Kick one for me"? Is that a sentiment National Review endorses? I've seen conservative attempts to belittle the abuses at Abu Ghraib, but this is the first time I've read anyone actually endorsing them. For Mr. Derbyshire, the only problem with abusing, torturing, and humiliating prisoners is that it might get out. Once again, the jaw drops.

E-Mail of the Week

"I just saw the Nick Berg video in its entirety. It is a case study in evil personified. These guys are cowards. They are creatures. After seeing this video I was initially shocked, scared and deeply disturbed. 30 minutes later though I was very, very angry. My view of Islamic terrorism is now set in concrete. These Islamists must be defeated. We need to take off the gloves. Every American should see this video to see the true nature of these Islamic terrorists. If evil ever infected anybody, it's those guys murdering Nick Berg and posting it for everyone to see. I really feel extremely bad for Nick's family. I wish I could give each one of them a big hug and say, 'I love you' to them. I wish I could help them through this horror."

Load-Date: May 14, 2004

McClooneyism II: The Protocols of Big Oil

National Post's Financial Post & FP Investing (Canada)

December 2, 2005 Friday

National Edition

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Section: FINANCIAL POST: COMMENT; Pg. FP23; Peter Foster

Length: 837 words

Byline: Peter Foster, Financial Post

Body

'Everything is connected' runs the tag line for the movie *Syriana*, another venture from proud and committed liberal "Gorgeous" George Clooney. The question is how. The movie's thesis is reminiscent of that old joke about the woman who is given a Rorschach ink blot test. She finds a pornographic theme in each picture. "You have a sexual problem," concludes the psychiatrist. "You can talk," says the woman, "you're the one who's showing all the dirty pictures!" Similarly, ask any good modern liberal to connect the geopolitical dots and you will wind up with a picture of corporate conspiracy centred in Washington.

Last week in this space I suggested that Clooney's other new movie, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, twisted facts at least as much as its target, Senator Joseph McCarthy, ever did. *Good Night's* theme is the unshakeable belief that corporate "power" is a perpetual threat to press freedom. *Syriana* steps up to a level of paranoid propaganda of which the junior senator from Wisconsin never dreamed.

The film portrays free markets as a fraud, capitalism as pillaging the Earth, the U.S. oil business and legal system as incurably corrupt, Washington as a cesspool and the CIA as an institution without a trace of morality. The good guys are suicide bombers and *Hezbollah*.

The film has had generally rave reviews, even though many reviewers admitted having trouble with the convoluted plot.

Clooney plays a CIA dirty-tricks specialist who "loses" a missile in the process of bumping off a couple of Iranian intelligence operatives. His superiors don't share his concern for the lost missile (big mistake), but offer him a final big assassination that could lead to a cushy desk job. He is to arrange the offing of an Arab prince, one of the possible heirs to a petroleum-rich Middle Eastern state. The prince is in fact an Oxford-educated "reformer" whose real "crime" is to have done a deal on concessions with the Chinese instead of the Americans. He must die! The prince acquires an advisor in the shape of a Geneva-based derivatives trader played by Matt Damon, who is gung-ho for the prince's plans to develop democracy and promote women's rights. Meanwhile, the big bad oil company that lost out to the Chinese is involved in a takeover of a smaller company with concessions in Kazakhstan, which it acquired with bribes. The U.S. government, as the political arm of the oil industry, wants the takeover to go through, but requires the "perception" of due diligence and some sacrificial lambs, who are willingly offered up from within the ranks of the merging companies and their legal advisors. Loyalty is for suckers. Finally a cute and innocent young Pakistani who loses his job in the oil fields winds up in a madrassa and is convinced that if he really has faith, he should go to paradise with a big bang. A really big bang. Clooney not only fails to take out the prince, he is

McClooneyism II: The Protocols of Big Oil

kidnapped and tortured by the assassin that he hired, who then blabs about what Clooney wanted him to do. Clooney's superiors' and colleagues' first thought is to hang him out to dry. Things go badly for everybody except Big Oil and its legal and political accomplices.

Edward R. Murrow attacked Joe McCarthy's tendency to "convict people by hearsay, rumour or innuendo." That pretty much sums up *Syriana*'s technique. The truly astonishing aspect of the movie's reviews is that many have treated it as if it was a documentary!

Like *Good Night*, *Syriana* comes from a relatively new production company, Participant, which is backed by Canadian-born Jeff Skoll, one of the founders of eBay. Mr. Skoll wants to make films that "make a difference" and *Syriana* is linked to a Web site that bemoans America's "oil addiction." and is full of Sierra Club hand-wringing about peak oil and climate change. Breaking the addiction, according to the site, "begins with the choices we make as individuals."

Stephen Gaghan, the movie's writer and director, apparently hasn't been to the Web site. He drives a 6.5-litre GTO that gets five miles to the gallon. Still, all that personal choice stuff is really for the little people. Messrs. Gaghan and Clooney have bigger fish to fry.

Two scenes in particular stand out. In one, the Damon character has a television on in his office which, for no obvious reason, is playing old newsreel footage of John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil. John D. is leading a hymn (the old hypocrite!). "John D. Rockefeller founded the University of Chicago," says one of Damon's colleagues. Get it? The founder of the world's most evil oil company also founded the university most connected with free-market economics. 'Nuff said. Later, an oleaginous oilman gives a speech in favour of corruption, declaring that the only real corruption is government interference in business. "Milton Friedman said that," declares the oilman, and "he won a goddamn Nobel Prize!" Get it? The most famous teacher from the Chicago school is cited to support business corruption.

How can you not get it? Everything is connected.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Michael Albans, New York Daily News, KRT; GEORGE CLOONEY: How can you not get it?

Load-Date: December 2, 2005

Iran victor turns his back on US to pursue nuclear aim

The Times (London)

June 27, 2005, Monday

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Section: Overseas news; 26

Length: 869 words

Byline: Ramita Navai

Body

From Ramita Navai in Tehran.

IRAN'S new ultra-conservative President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, defended yesterday his country's right to pursue its nuclear programme regardless of European and American pressure.

He said that he would continue discussions with Europe but insisted that his country had no need for ties with the United States.

In the first press conference since his shock election victory on Friday, his replies about the nuclear issue were the only time that his monotone voice became emotive and defiant.

"It is Iran's right and it is what every single Iranian wants. With preserving national interests and by emphasising the right of the Iranian nation for using peaceful nuclear technology, we will continue the talks (with Europe)," he said.

The EU has reacted nervously to Mr Ahmadinejad's victory. He is surrounded by ideological hardliners who are loath to make concessions to the West over Iran's nuclear programme.

Analysts have predicted that his win will mark a downturn in Iran's relations with the West. His supporters are from Iran's main conservative parties who have often stridently criticised Western countries and accused them of exploitation and imperialism.

However, he may not have much power in setting foreign policy. That right is bestowed on the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the Supreme National Security Council, of which the President is a member, but not the deciding influence. Mr Ahmadinejad will also find it hard to criticise the nuclear policy, as it has been set by the Leader and any criticism would appear as directly challenging his opinions.

What is clear is that it will be much harder to reach agreements with Britain, Germany and France, who have continued the negotiations.

It appears that it will be harder still to reach any rapprochement with America.

"Our nation is continuing the path of progress and on this path has no significant need for (relations with) the United States," he said.

Iran victor turns his back on US to pursue nuclear aim

Donald Rumsfeld, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday that Mr Ahmadinejad was no friend of democracy. "He is very much supportive of the current ayatollahs, who are telling the people of (Iran) how to live their lives, and my guess is over time the young people and women will find him as well as his masters unacceptable."

Mr Ahmadinejad began his press conference by reciting a passage from the Koran in Arabic. Dwarfed by his aides -if he is Iran's first non-cleric President in 24 years he is also its shortest -he smiled broadly for photographers and even gave a regal wave to journalists in the gallery.

He deftly deflected thorny questions -when asked about Iran's human rights record he questioned Europe's. His rhetoric was peppered with revolutionary talk of brotherhood and love for the nation and he continued his campaign themes of eradication of poverty and corruption. But speaking in general terms, he gave no hard guarantees on issues that are concerning some Iranians, such as social freedoms and women's rights.

Mr Ahmadinejad has a reputation as a religious hardliner who has opposed measures to relax some restrictions on life in Tehran. His win marks a resurgence of the conservatives and highlights the stark class divides in Iran. His campaign agenda targeted the working classes, with his promises to solve the housing crisis, poverty and unemployment -which is unofficially 30 per cent -and transformed him into an Islamic Robin Hood.

But his critics say that Mr Ahmadinejad's mix of strict Islamic values and politics will drag Iran back into the dark days after the revolution when women were flogged for wearing too much make-up.

However, the biggest fear, his critics say, is that his victory gives the conservatives control of Iran's two highest elected offices -the presidency and parliament -taking conservatives a step nearer to absolute power. Such a concentration of strength at the top could ultimately bring Iran closer to dictatorship.

Leading article, page 17.

THE VERDICTS

* "With the conclusion of the elections in Iran, we have seen nothing that dissuades us from our view that Iran is out of step with the rest of the region". US State Department

* "This election was an internal affair and we respect its outcome". Saeb Erakat, Palestinian Negotiations Minister

* "I hope that under Mr Ahmadinejad's presidency, Iran will take early steps to address international concerns about its nuclear programme". Jack Straw, Foreign Secretary

* "We must stand by our demand that Iran respect fundamental human rights, as we did with outgoing President (Mohammad) Khatami". Franco Frattini, EU Justice Commissioner

* "The result proved once again that Iran is adding more radicalism and extremism rather than serious reforms and reconciliation". Silvan Shalom, Israeli Foreign Minister

* "Economic co-operation also rests on how successfully Iran can secure international trust and further open itself". Joschka Fischer, German Foreign Minister

* "The Iranian people has once again shown that it possesses an extraordinary vitality in the face of challenges and that it is determined to impose its choice in the presidential election and in the affairs of state". Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah assistant secretary-general

Load-Date: June 27, 2005

3 Americans in Israel among 7 killed by bomb

The Philadelphia Inquirer

August 1, 2002 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A01; news

Length: 858 words

Byline: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson Knight Ridder News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinians seeking revenge for a recent Israeli air strike on the Gaza Strip detonated a bomb yesterday in a crowded cafeteria at Hebrew University, killing seven people, including three Americans, and wounding 86.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet vowed to retaliate immediately.

The terrorist wing of the Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying it was retaliating for the assassination of its commander, Salah Shehadeh. He was killed by the Israel Defense Forces in an air strike July 23 that also killed 15 others and wounded 145, many of them children.

Officials did not identify the Americans who were killed.

But one was identified by a family spokesman as Janis Ruth Coulter, 36, an assistant director of graduate studies based at Hebrew University's New York office.

Many students in Jerusalem were stunned. "This shows it can happen anywhere," said Spencer Dew, 26, of Owensboro, Ky., a University of Chicago doctoral student in divinity. His shirt torn and bloody, his face and ears scratched, Dew said he had been sitting outside on the patio when the windows blew out in his direction.

The lunchtime bombing was on a 77-year-old campus known for ethnic and religious tolerance, a haven for Israeli Jewish and Arab students who study and socialize together. The campus, on Mount Scopus at the edge of Arab East Jerusalem and the West Bank, is bordered by several Arab neighborhoods.

Jerusalem police said the bomb appeared not to have been carried by a suicide bomber, but was inside a bag planted in the building.

"What happened was in response to the IDF massacre that took place in Gaza against women, children and our leader," Ismail Haniya, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, told a television station run by the militant Islamic group Hezbollah in Beirut, Lebanon. "Again we prove the intifadah [uprising] is the strategy that will continue until the liberation and full independence of our people."

3 Americans in Israel among 7 killed by bomb

Early today, in the town of Beit Jala, next to Bethlehem, the Israeli military destroyed the family house of Haza Yusuf, who carried out a suicide bombing attack on Tuesday in Jerusalem that wounded seven Israelis, the military said in a statement. Military sources said the destruction was a deterrent measure to show that such actions have a price.

President Bush, who is trying to broker a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians, condemned yesterday's bombing, which he blamed on "killers who hate the thought of peace and therefore are willing to take their hatred to all kinds of places, including a university."

More than 10,000 Palestinians marched last night in Gaza City to celebrate the attack, carrying pictures of Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and passing out sweets. A masked Hamas leader told the crowd through a bullhorn that they had "targeted the brains of Jews for revenge of our children." He promised more attacks.

Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat condemned the bombing.

"We will continue our efforts to stop the violence... against the civilians whether they are Palestinians or Israelis," Arafat said. "These actions are not our behaviors as Muslims, Christians and Jews."

An Israeli Arab student, who was searching for a cousin believed to have been in the cafeteria at the time of the blast, agreed.

"As people, we shouldn't accept any kind of hurting of innocent people," said Waseen Mashalha, 22, of Daburiya, east of Nazareth. "They can't be considered human beings when they think like this."

The university has a mostly Jewish student population of about 23,000. School was not in session when the bomb went off. The students who were on campus were taking summer-school exams, registering for classes, or simply hanging out.

Unlike restaurants elsewhere in Israel, no one checks backpacks when people enter the cafeteria, students said. Security personnel check bags when students enter the campus, and police patrol the buildings, officials said.

The university's student newspaper had warned recently of the possibility of an attacker infiltrating from a nearby Arab village.

All of the cafeteria windows were blown out by the force of the 1:40 p.m. blast. For an instant, there was stunned silence, then people panicked, escaping any way they could, said Sharon Avital, 26, a Jewish graduate student who was slightly injured when shrapnel struck the back of her head.

Avital, who said she had barely sat down to a lunch of chicken schnitzel, Chinese pasta and cabbage, at first didn't know what to do. "The explosion was behind me, so I squatted on the floor. There was blood and everything."

Haneen Hussein, 18, and her friend Abeer Salman, 19, both of the Israeli Arab neighborhood of Beit Safafa, leaned against each other as they sat on stone steps next to the patio, trying not to cry.

"We can't find our friend," said Hussein, her lips quivering. "She told us she would follow us upstairs... from the cafeteria."

Nearby, right-wing Israelis, who show up at such bombings, held a sign that read: "It's either us or them. Expel the Arabs."

Contact Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson at snelson@krwashington.com. This article includes information from the Associated Press.

3 Americans in Israel among 7 killed by bomb

End of Document

Divest them of their prejudice

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

June 3, 2005 Friday

National Edition

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Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A21

Length: 905 words

Byline: Abraham Cooper and Harold Brackman, National Post

Body

The British Association of University Teachers has been forced to abandon its boycott of Israel's Haifa and Bar Ilan Universities. But we derive little comfort from this victory -- for it is merely the latest skirmish in an ongoing war to delegitimize the Jewish state. In the United States, this campaign now extends to the pews of mainstream Protestant Churches, some of which are mulling proposals to divest from U.S. firms doing business with Jerusalem.

A recent pronouncement by Reverend John H. Thomas, General Minister and president of the United Church of Christ (UCC) -- the Congregationalist denomination whose forbearers included the Puritan founding fathers and mothers of New England -- offers insight into a dangerous mindset.

Rev. Thomas has framed a divestment proposal that will be discussed at this summer's General Synod in a way that prejudges the result. After reminiscing about the anti-Vietnam War movement and Mississippi's "Freedom Summer," he recently suggested that the moral case against Israel is similarly compelling. The Jewish state's sin, he says, is forcing Palestinians "mourning [for] a lost state" to live as "aliens and strangers."

Rev. Thomas loves to analogize from U.S. history. When arguing that Israel should dismantle its controversial but effective anti-terrorist barrier abutting the Palestinian territories, for example, he urges Ariel Sharon to follow the example of the Massachusetts Congregationalists 350 years ago. That was when Bay Colony churches lowered barriers in order to admit young outsiders who'd not yet undergone the conversion experience necessary to become full-fledged Puritans.

One wonders whether Thomas's forbearers would have been as enthusiastic about such exercises in "youth outreach" if the incoming adolescents were brainwashed teenage killers like Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, an 18-year-old Palestinian homicide bomber who recently dressed as an Orthodox Jew, boarded a Jerusalem bus at rush hour, and killed 18 people. (In fact, we know how the Puritans dealt with boisterous young Quakers who "invaded" Boston's churches: They hanged four of them.)

The Protestant zeal to punish Israel comes at the very moment that Israel is about to unilaterally dismantle all its Gaza settlements, and is releasing 400 Palestinian prisoners linked to terrorist activities. Sharon has acted in the face of strong domestic opposition from critics who -- not without reason -- fear a new Palestinian state may degenerate into a terrorist "Hamastan." Even European diplomats, who typically have little good to say about Israel, have commended his political courage.

Divest them of their prejudice

Yet mainline Protestant zealots -- egged on by the World Council of Churches, a Geneva-based umbrella group -- continue to demonize Israel, still the only fully democratic state in the Middle East, as the equivalent of apartheid-era South Africa. Never mind that a million Israeli Arabs vote in Israel's elections, while Muslim women still aren't allowed to drive cars in Saudi Arabia. These "peace activists" see the Mideast through the distorting lens of their own prejudices.

Just look at the Web sites of the Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist and Episcopal denominations. Frozen in time, they ignore current developments and instead show details from dated "fact-finding missions" to Gaza and Jenin by church dignitaries. Typically, these officials find no time to visit grieving parents and orphans of Israelis blown up on the way to school, work or prayer. Other church dignitaries have hobnobbed with Lebanon's Iran-funded Hezbollah terrorists, who boast of the thousands of missiles they have ready to unleash on Northern Israel.

A recent study by the Institute for Religion and Democracy examined the human-rights-related pronouncements issued by these four mainline Protestant denominations. It showed that during the period 2000-2003, 37% of their criticism was directed against tiny Israel, and an additional 32% against the U.S. conduct of its war on terror. That leaves just 31% for the combined barbarity of all the world's authoritarian regimes.

It is difficult to fathom why this perverse anti-Israel mindset persists. Next time, instead of taking choreographed tours of refugee camps, mainline Protestant leaders should spend a week in Israel, a modern nation that in fewer than 60 years has absorbed millions of multicultural Jews -- from Morocco and Ethiopia to Iran and Russia -- as well 1.5 million gentiles. The Jewish state has forged an inclusive, democratic society despite recurrent wars and incessant terrorist attacks -- and has kept Jerusalem and other Christian holy cities open as sites for gathering and prayer by people of all faiths. Why on earth would this nation -- not Sudan, not North Korea, not Cuba -- should be a special target of Protestant wrath?

During the Second World War, as historian David S. Wyman documented in his book, *The Abandonment of the Jews*, mainline Protestant Churches "were almost inert in the face of the Holocaust." Since then, interfaith relations have come a long way. But the rhetoric from today's mainline Protestants threatens to reverse that progress. Let us hope Rev. Thomas will join in heeding Moses's double admonition of Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof: "Justice, Justice Thou shall pursue." The Palestinian people shall have their state, but only when their hearts, minds and actions -- and those of the world community -- are divested of hatred of Israel.

Load-Date: June 3, 2005

Lunch in the Limelight for the Producers; ON THE GO

The Forward

May 9, 2003

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Section: Fast Forward; Pg. 14

Length: 870 words

Byline: Masha Leon

Body

"I'll do anything for Isabelle Stevenson [American Theatre Wing's chairman of the board]... even wear men's clothes," declared master of ceremonies Harvey Fierstein at the Wing's April 14 luncheon, which honored 12 Broadway producers - all women: Dasha Epstein, Carole Shorenstein Hays, Terry Allen Kramer, Margo Lion, Elizabeth Ireland McCann, Lynne Meadow, Chase Mishkin, Nelle Nugent, Daryl Roth, Anita Waxman, Fran Weissler and Elizabeth Williams.

"Were there no women producers, there would be no me," said Fierstein (star of the impossible-to-get-tickets-to "Hairspray").

"Between them, they gave us 126 shows, 101 Tony Awards and were responsible for jobs for 2,104 actors," said Fierstein, who'd earlier mugged for the cameras with actors André De Shields and Mary Bond Davis.

The 500 guests jammed into the Pierre Hotel's ballroom included Lauren Bacall, Walter Cronkite, Beth Rudin de Woody, Patti Kenner, Charles Grodin, Stewart Lane, Frank Langella, Marion Seldes, Betsy von Furstenberg, Wings' president Roy Somlyo and event chairs Clarissa and Edgar Bronfman Jr. An all-male cast of Broadway veterans - among them Hinton Battle, Joel Grey, Lonny Price and Arthur Rubin - reprised solo performances from Broadway shows.

"I have a story for you," my tablemate Richard Seader said when he heard I was with the Forward. "In the 1960s I was the company manager at 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.'"

"When Zero [Mostel] was blacklisted," Seader continued, "he had a difficult time earning a living ... so he did weekends in the Borscht Belt. He'd drive up every Friday afternoon and stop at the [Catskills landmark] Red Apple Diner. Zero went into the men's room and, as a gentleman approached the next urinal, Zero said to him in Yiddish: 'You look like Marc Chagall.' The man replied in Yiddish: 'I am Chagall!'... That's how their friendship began.... Zero used to say 'Don't call me an actor, I just act to support my painting.'"

* * *

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman; its consul for cultural affairs, Ofra Ben Yaacov, and its deputy consul general in New York, Simona Frankel, attended the April 22 New York debut of the Inbal Pinto Dance Company's production "Oyster" at Joyce Theater.

Disregard the treyf title; the work is kosher. There's neither sight nor hint of any shellfish in this puzzling fable that overflows with metaphors about manipulation, love lost and found, escape, aging - and ver veys (who knows) what

Lunch in the Limelight for the Producers ON THE GO

else? The work is mind-bending, the dancers sublime, the costumes witty, the music - from Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" to Harry James's rendition of "It's Been a Long, Long Time," to Yma Sumac's four-octave warbling of "Taki Rani" - is simply delicious. Entranced, I joined in the standing ovation.

* * *

On a cultural roll, Ambassador Gillerman was in the audience for the April 27 benefit performance of "Golda's Balcony" (extended through June), starring Tovah Feldshuh as Golda Meir. The benefit raised \$50,000 for Operation Access, a project of Tel Aviv's New Cameri Theatre. Amina Harris, chairwoman of the International Society of the Cameri Theatre, touted Operation, which invites Israelis and Arabs for "an evening of sightseeing and a play" (with simultaneous Arabic translation) to help foster good will between the groups.

Aaron Ziegelman, chair emeritus of the American Friends of the Cameri Theatre, posited that the vision of the Jews as the "People of the Book" needs to encompass "culture," which he said is "as important as the necessities of life."

Ziegelman had another reason to kvell: The documentary "Luboml," which he funded, aired April 29 simultaneously in Israel and the United States. It depicts his Polish hometown's flourishing pre-war life.

Of "Golda's Balcony," Feldshuh later told me: "It's the greatest role of my career, and I am privileged to spend every evening with the prime minister.... To be her is to learn from her... a mother lioness screaming for peace in the belly of war."

* * *

Terrorism expert Steven Emerson was the keynote speaker at the April 8 Jewish National Fund "Tree of Life Dinner" at the Waldorf-Astoria. The author of "American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us," Emerson said, "I believe we are turning the corner on international terrorism, [but]... we must not let our guard down."

He warned that groups including Hamas and Hezbollah use "the United States as a sanctuary," filtering hundreds of millions of dollars through shell companies. Emerson applauded Fleet Bank - whose executive vice president, William McCahill, was the dinner's honoree - as "having come to my attention because, after 9/11, it was involved in tracking terrorists' funds."

Emerson recalled his testimony before Congress: "There is no such thing as terrorism.... There are terrorists. Each has a name, address, face." He lamented the absence of an Islamic Reformation... the separation of church and state."

He concluded: "I believe the terrorists will revisit New York and Washington as they did in 2001. [Osama] bin Ladin and [other fundamentalist] Islamic leaders are obsessed by the freedom symbolized by New York's downtown.... The bad guys have to succeed only once. The good guys have to succeed thousands of times."

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

'Diplomacy' with Iran self-destructive

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

May 6, 2005 Friday Final Edition

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Section: OPINIONS; Pg. A11; OPINION

Length: 906 words

Byline: ELAN JOURNO

Body

Despite another round of talks with European diplomats, Iran has reaffirmed its determination to continue pursuing nuclear technology. That outcome is hardly unexpected.

The diplomatic effort led by Britain, France and Germany is touted as a reasonable way to settle the dispute over Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program without any losers. By enticing Iran to the negotiating table, we are told, the West can avoid a military confrontation, while Iran gains "economic incentives" that can help build its economy. But this deal -- backed also by the United States -- can only strengthen Iran and turn it into a greater menace.

The European deal -- said to include the sale of civilian aircraft and membership for Iran in the World Trade Organization -- rests on the notion that no one would put abstract goals or principles ahead of gaining a steady flow of economic loot. And so, if only we could negotiate a deal that gives Iran a sufficiently juicy carrot, it would forgo its ambitions.

But to believe that Iran really hungers for nuclear energy -- as it claims -- is sheer fantasy. Possessing abundant oil and gas reserves, Iran is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC. To believe that it values prosperity at all is equally fantastic; Iran is a theocracy that systematically violates its citizens' right to political and economic liberty.

What Iran desires is a nuclear weapon -- the better to threaten and annihilate the impious in the West and in Iran's neighbourhood. Iran declares its anti-Western ambitions stridently. At an official parade in 2003, Iran flaunted a Shihab-3 missile draped with a banner announcing "Israel must be wiped out." A missile paraded last year declared another of Iran's targets: "We will crush America under our feet."

A committed enemy of the West, Iran is the ideological wellspring of Islamic terrorism, and the "world's most active sponsor of terrorism," according to the U.S. government. A totalitarian regime that viciously punishes "un-Islamic" behaviour among its own citizens, Iran actively exports its contempt for freedom and human life throughout the infidel world.

For years it has been fomenting and underwriting savage attacks on Western and American interests, using such proxies as **Hezbollah**. Like several of the 9/11 hijackers before them, many senior al-Qaida leaders, fugitives of the Afghanistan war, have found refuge in Iran. And lately, Iran has funneled millions of dollars, arms and ammunition to insurgents in Iraq.

It's absurd to think that by offering Iran rewards to halt its aggression, we will deflect it from its goal.

'Diplomacy' with Iran self-destructive

The only consequence of engaging such a vociferously hostile regime in negotiations is the whitewashing of its crimes and the granting of undeserved legitimacy. The attempt to conciliate Iran with "incentives" further inflames the boldness of Iran's mullahs. What it teaches them is that the West lacks the intellectual self-confidence to name its enemies and deal with them accordingly. It vindicates the mullahs' view that their religious worldview can bring a scientific, technologically advanced West to its knees.

Far from converting Iran into a non-threat, the "incentives" would sustain its economy, prop up its dictatorial government and perpetuate its terrorist war against the West. Whether Iran accepts the European deal or merely prolongs "negotiations" indefinitely, so long as the "diplomatic" approach continues Iran gains time enough to engage in covert nuclear-weapons research. Iran's flouting of a previous agreement to stop enriching uranium, which prompted the current talks, and its documented attempts to acquire nuclear-bomb technology erase any doubts about how it will behave under any future deal.

This approach of diplomacy-with-anyone-at-any-cost necessarily results in nourishing one's enemy and sharpening its fangs. That is what happened under a 1994 deal with communist North Korea. In return for boatloads of aid and oil from the United States, Japan and other nations, North Korea promised not to develop nuclear weapons. Despite United Nations inspections, North Korea flouted the agreement repeatedly. When caught cheating, it promised anew to end its nuclear program in return for more "incentives." In February 2005 North Korea declared -- plausibly -- that it had succeeded in building nuclear weapons.

Another, older attempt to buy peace by giving "incentives" to an enemy was a cataclysmic failure. In 1938 the Europeans pretended that Hitler's intentions were not really hostile, and insisted that "peace in our time" could be attained by allowing him to walk into Czechoslovakia. Instead, he was emboldened to launch the Second World War.

Ignoring the lessons of history, the Europeans are advocating a deal with Iran that likewise purchases the reckless pretence of peace today, at the cost of unleashing catastrophic dangers tomorrow.

To protect American and European lives, we must learn the life-or-death importance of passing objective moral judgment. We must recognize the character of Iran and act accordingly. By any rational standard, Iran should be condemned and its nuclear ambition thwarted -- now. The brazenly amoral European gambit can only aid its quest-- and necessitate a future confrontation with a bolder, stronger Iran.

Elan Journo is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand -- best-selling author and originator of the philosophy of Objectivism.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; ***Female*** reporters take notes while standing behind a model of Iran's Boushehr nuclear power plant at an information centre in Boushehr, Iran in 2003.

Load-Date: May 6, 2005

Mufti mixes motives

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

May 11, 2005 Wednesday

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Section: OPEDIT; Pg. 19

Length: 823 words

Byline: Andrew Bolt

Body

It's great Sheik El-Hilaly wants to free Douglas Wood. It's not so great that he uses his mission to spout his old messages of hate.

WE should be grateful Australia's most senior Islamic cleric has trekked to Baghdad to save the life of Australian hostage Douglas Wood.

But the Mufti of Australia, Sheik Taj El-Din El-Hilaly, has at the same time shown -- again -- that not all the Muslim extremists who threaten us are in Iraq.

Surely now even his closest supporters see that this man of hate should no longer represent our Muslims.

Hilaly on the weekend filmed an appeal in Arabic for Wood's kidnappers to spare the life of the 63-year-old engineer, who had been bashed, shaved bald, and threatened with execution if coalition forces were not pulled out of Iraq.

Hilaly is a Sunni extremist, like the men believed to hold Wood, and in his appeal, broadcast in Iraq, he told them: "We value your jihad and your efforts."

But, he added: "We call upon you to do something for the sake of our community and all Australian society, which does not support (Prime Minister John) Howard's pro-American policies. You know the Australian forces in Iraq are protected by American forces and don't do anything -- it's all politics."

I can think of only one plausible way to read this -- our senior Islamic cleric values the terrorists who kill and kidnap countless victims, most of them Iraqis. And he wants Wood freed because killing him won't help Muslims here, most Australians already think Howard is a toady, and the real enemy is America.

Of course, excuses were immediately made for the Mufti, as they always are when he is discovered vilifying Jews or Americans, or praising suicide bombers and terrorists.

Labor's immigration spokesman, Laurie Ferguson, for instance, said the "jihad" Hilaly backed was "not necessarily violent".

Besides, he added, "you've got to look at (his comments) in the context of his efforts to save someone's life", because "he has to negotiate with those people and to try and persuade them of his bona fides".

Mufti mixes motives

THERE they go again. Labor has a shameful history of defending Hilaly, ever since 1988, when the Egyptian-born radical called Jews "the underlying cause of all wars", using "sex and abominable acts of buggery, espionage, treason and economic hoarding to control the world".

Hilaly was about to be deported for rabble rousing, but the Hawke Government overturned the decision of its own Immigration Minister, Chris Hurford, so it could win Muslim votes in Sydney's western suburbs.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils has been just as quick to defend Hilaly, but hasn't bothered pretending, as did the dupe Ferguson, that this jihad he backed wasn't violent.

"The jihad is the war that you fight in self defence, and (the kidnappers) are trying to free the country from foreign occupation," its president, Amir Ali, said.

Yes, those patriotic freedom fighters, whose victims, paradoxically, are overwhelmingly Iraqi Kurds and Shiites, many of them women and children blown apart by car bombs.

But the federation, too, has long defended Hilaly's extremism. It first made him Mufti in 1988 to "help him stay in Australia", as one of its members told me, and last year denied Hilaly had endorsed jihad and suicide attacks on Israel, even when he'd been taped in Lebanon saying just that.

And it said nothing at all when SBS filmed the Mufti just before the September 11 attacks calling suicide bombers "heroes".

Of course, Hilaly may simply have said what Wood's kidnappers want to hear, to give himself a better chance of saving the poor man.

But his record -- which includes endorsing the Hezbollah terrorist group and hailing the September 11 attacks as "God's work against oppressors" -- is against him. I'm sure he said what he truly believes.

Even his former translator and spokesman, Keysar Trad of the Australian Lebanese Muslim Association, finally ran out of spin this week, admitting Hilaly had "used language that's not consistent with our expectations as Australians".

More consistent with our expectations has been the language of Australia's most senior Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Sheik Mohammed Hussein al-Ansari, who described the kidnappers as criminals who defiled Islam.

"Those people, they have no religion or denomination," he said.

"They are a bunch of criminals and terrorists. They are using the name of Islam but they are not generally a Muslim people."

S UCH hot talk will not save Wood. But it may save Australia's Muslims from some of the unjust suspicion they attract by being represented by a Mufti who so often lauds Islamist terrorists and kidnappers.

Most Muslims are not enemies of freedom and the West, but leaders like Hilaly make them seem so.

The sooner he is replaced by a man of moderation, perhaps Melbourne's Sheik Fehmi Naji El Imam, the better for all Australians, Muslims and infidels alike.

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Load-Date: May 10, 2005

ON OSAMA, WALKER, THE SAUDIS, THE FLAG, KIPLING, ETC.

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

December 16, 2001 Sunday City Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. E-3

Length: 848 words

Byline: Ross MacKenzie

Body

The tape removes all doubt of the great Osama's gloating complicity in the September 11 atrocities. Yet more than mere complicity, Osama played the lead trombone - heck, he was the conductor of the entire orchestra.

Reflecting further on September 11, these thoughts

Question: Do those who "oppose the death penalty," oppose the death penalty for Osama?

* * *

Where have all the Old Glories gone? Yes, many remain, but many have been stashed back in drawers, corners, and garages - and many, my friend, have tattered into nothingness blowing in the wind. Are Americans wearying of this war even now?

* * *

About John Walker - the Marin County, California, young man who, in seeking his identity, found himself rejoicing (a) in the slaughter of Americans ("yes, I supported the attack on September 11") and (b) in his al-Qaeda membership: (1) Perhaps too often, we hear youthful behavior explained or excused by the sins of the parents - as in: He wasn't properly potty-trained or her mother drank or she wasn't breast-fed or his father was a martinet or what else would you expect of a child raised in poverty (or by a father who collected guns)? Yet now, from many of the same semi-pro rationalizers, we are hearing that some of the odd practices and ideological floundering of the parents had utterly nothing to do with young Walker fighting alongside the Taliban.

* * *

(2) In response to the fretting and hand-wringing over what to do about American citizen Walker - whether to try him in military or civilian courts, or simply to let him go - here's a solution: Conclude that by his actions he has renounced his American citizenship, and leave him to the mercies of Afghan justice.

* * *

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wants all al-Qaeda members imprisoned and dealt with - and he doesn't care where. But the double-dealing Saudis are still publicly trying to put a happy face on the large number of Saudi nationals engaged in what clearly is a worldwide conspiracy. Osama himself is an exiled Saudi who would like nothing better than to sit astride all that Saudi oil. As for captured Saudi citizens? They should be sent home for

ON OSAMA, WALKER, THE SAUDIS, THE FLAG, KIPLING, ETC.

loving re-education. A Saudi official explained Tuesday that many are simply misguided, unknowing "19-year-olds . . . like John Walker."

* * *

Most lists of "moderate" Arab countries include - verily, are limited to - Egypt and Saudi Arabia. In pursuing Osama et al., the U.S. is supposed to worry deeply about how its actions sit with those so-called moderate Arab entities. Yet both countries (emphatically undemocratic, as are all Arab states) have throttled their domestic extremist opposition into near non-existence. They are most vocal in their hatred of Israel. With the Taliban and al-Qaeda just about crushed, Egypt and Saudi Arabia still voice their moderation through their undiluted hostility toward Israel and their implicit support of the anti-Israeli terror that otherwise might well be directed against the Egyptian and Saudi regimes.

* * *

Next stop in the Terror War? Perhaps Iraq. Perhaps Libya, Sudan, or Yemen - with stipulations that the governments there either clean up home-grown terrorist operations or we will do the job for them. Perhaps Lebanon, with an or-else message to shut down the Hezbollah, Iranian Revolutionary Guard, or Syrian terrorist camps in the Bekka Valley. Perhaps Syria itself, host to more terrorist operations than any other country. Or perhaps Somalia, which - like Afghanistan - has practically no government but considerable terrorist activity.

* * *

The government is garnering supplies of smallpox vaccine for every American in the event of a bioterrorist attack spreading smallpox. Now the federal Food and Drug Administration is urging similar stockpiling of potassium iodide pills - proven to protect people against thyroid cancer following exposure to radiation. Such pills would be useful in countering radioactive fallout from a terrorist nuclear attack. "You there, in the back of the class - you have your hand up?" Yes - and my question is this: Stockpiling is a good thing, but why doesn't the government also administer the smallpox vaccine or make potassium iodide pills available to those who want them ahead of time?

* * *

Casual media use of lines from Rudyard Kipling has given the wrong impression of American prospects in Afghanistan. The verse:

When you're wounded and left

On Afghanistan's plains

And the women come out

To cut up your remains

Just roll on your rifle

And blow out your brains,

And go to your Gawd

Like a soldier.

But retrospectively, Kipling provides a truer prospect in his "Grave of the Hundred Head." A Burmese rebel sniper kills a British lieutenant in the First Shikaris - A big blue mark in his forehead / And the back blown out of his head. The response:

The men of the First Shikaris

Shouted and smote and slew . . .

ON OSAMA, WALKER, THE SAUDIS, THE FLAG, KIPLING, ETC.

[And] butchered the folk who flew.

Long was the morn of slaughter,

Long was the list of slain,

Five score heads were taken,

Five score heads and twain.

Given the seeming outcome in Afghanistan, Kipling was more on the money in the second poem than in the first.

Load-Date: December 18, 2001

End of Document

FLAWED IDEALISM

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 2, 2003 Sunday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL ; Pg. B2; EDITORIAL

Length: 872 words

Body

DEMOCRACY

THERE is a strong current of idealism in President George W. Bush's vision of democracy spreading out from Iraq like ripples from a pebble tossed in a pond. For many Americans, liberal as well as conservative, overthrowing a brutal dictator and creating a democratic Middle East is the strongest reason to go to war against Saddam Hussein. The problem is that Mr. Bush's idealism is based on a view of the Arab world as he would like it to be, not as it is.

Mr. Bush's vision of a democratic Middle East is a far cry from that of candidate Bush, who spoke against nation-building and in favor of "humility" in foreign affairs. He told true believers at the American Enterprise Institute on Wednesday that the war would bring "liberty" to Iraq, and provide a "dramatic and inspiring example of freedom for others in the region." That, in turn, would create a "new stage for Middle East peace" with a "truly democratic Palestinian state."

Neoconservatives in the administration go even further. Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy, suggested in an interview with Nicolas Lemann in The New Yorker that a victory in Iraq could undermine the clerics in Iran and send a strong message to Syria and Lebanon that it is dangerous to harbor Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. Mr. Feith suggested that new Middle Eastern democracies would incorporate checks and balances against tyranny -- hardly a Middle Eastern concept.

This is a wonderful vision for the world. If Mr. Bush were able to will liberty, democracy and American-style checks and balances into existence in the Middle East -- or to force them into place by bombing Baghdad -- we should unleash the cruise missiles tomorrow. But as we are learning in Afghanistan, it is difficult and expensive to transplant the seeds of democracy in the arid soil where clans and war lords rule.

One doesn't have to be a cynic to say that Mr. Bush's view seems unrealistic and incoherent. A truly democratic Middle East would not support a war in Iraq. The vast majority of the people see America more as an imperialist, rather than a democratic, force.

There is also a disconnect when it comes to the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat is the democratically elected president of the Palestinian Authority, yet Mr. Bush has insisted that Mr. Arafat must go in the name of democracy. A democratic Middle East almost certainly would be far more anti-Israel than the more autocratic governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Indeed, Mr. Bush's tilt toward Israel is widely seen in the Middle East as anti-democratic, because Israel is perceived as depriving Palestinians of their rights.

FLAWED IDEALISM

Mr. Bush would have given democracy a better chance in the Middle East if he had first put his energy, prestige, might and dollars into directly solving the Israel-Palestinian problem, rather than trying to influence it indirectly by waging war against Iraq.

Elections are the best way to choose leaders, but they don't always result in leaders who respect liberty or democracy or human rights. The elected leaders of U.S.-liberated Kuwait won't allow women to vote. Elections in Algeria favored fundamentalists who could end democracy. The most recent elections in Pakistan saw a big pickup for anti-American fundamentalists. Many countries where people choose their own leaders simply despise the United States, and don't want a true, pluralistic democracy where everyone has equal power.

Mr. Bush has a point when he says that it is "insulting" to say that Muslims do not aspire to freedom. Liberty is a basic desire of the human heart, as the president said, echoing the fundamental American belief that people are born with inalienable rights.

A survey of world values, recently reported in the Foreign Policy magazine, supports Mr. Bush's view. Support for democratic values in Muslim nations is 87 percent, one point higher than in the West. Some Arab intellectuals have been outspoken about the need for greater democracy and modernization.

But we must realize that democratic urges run toward pan-Islamic nationalism, rather than a secular democratic society with checks and balances, and equality for women.

Mr. Bush's zealous effort to bring Western values of liberty and democracy to the Middle East, as laudable a goal as that is, is reminiscent of the misguided idealism of Alden Pyle, the CIA agent in 1950s Vietnam who is portrayed in Graham Greene's "The Quiet American" -- now the subject of a popular movie.

Pyle, a fictional character patterned after a real CIA agent, was determined to bring liberty and democracy to colonial Vietnam. Mr. Greene describes him as "absorbed . . . in the dilemmas of democracy and the responsibilities of the West; he was determined . . . to do good, not to any individual person, but to a country, a continent, a world."

The point is that it isn't good enough for a leader or a country to zealously pursue a well-motivated foreign policy if that policy is disconnected from reality. The president of the United States should be encouraging democracy to flourish in the Middle East. But there are other, less drastic, destructive ways to do that -- diplomacy, aid, trade, intellectual exchange -- than waging a war that the people in the region do not support.

Notes

idealism diplomacy united states iraq Middle East

Load-Date: March 2, 2003

Foot soldiers of nihilism

The Weekend Australian

June 26, 2004 Saturday NSW Country Edition

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Section: REVIEW; Books; Pg. B10

Length: 852 words

Byline: Peter Coleman

Body

An attempt to explain the explosion in suicide bombings misses a few points, argues Peter Coleman

My Life as a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing

By Christoph Reuter, Princeton University Press, 200pp, \$44.95

WHAT makes young people turn themselves into human bombs? Here at last is a careful investigation of this atrocious epidemic. The author is a German journalist and Orientalist who has spent years in Arab and Muslim countries and speaks many of the key languages. He wants to help put an end to this era of unspeakable crimes.

Poverty and ignorance will not explain these suicides, he says. Some, like the September 11 bombers, are rich and well-educated. Nor is religious fanaticism, especially Islam, always a key. The Tamils are Hindu and the Tamil Tigers are secularist. Terrorism alone is not an explanation. The IRA does not practise suicide; neither does the Algerian GIA, which likes slitting throats but not their own. Even sex -- and the 70 black-eyed virgins with heaving breasts who will greet the martyrs in Paradise -- does not quite explain those suicidalists who fear and shun all contact with women.

MATP

Reuter has his own theory. It is not as comprehensive as he thinks but it helps. The suicide bombers are motivated, he believes, by their sense of powerlessness. After years of humiliation at the hands of the US, Israel, Turkey or the West in general, they have found a weapon that annihilates the logic of power. No credible threat can be made against someone who has no desire to survive. These martyrs demonstrate that the apparently powerful may also be made powerless.

Add an apocalyptic ideology and heroic myth of sacrificial defeat (as in the great battle of Karbala 1300 years ago) and you have an unstoppable force. As the early Christians found, armies crumble before the faith of the martyrs.

By becoming a human bomb, the young man becomes a hero. He does God's will and enters Paradise. The welfare department of the terrorist network takes care of the funeral, gives his family a few hundred dollars and will look after the children. (Hamas has an annual budget of \$100 million.)

But there is an element that Reuter neglects. Suicide killers are as old as history, but their victims were carefully targeted. The new terrorists kill innocent bystanders, often deliberately and with indifference (as in Bali). Only a sense of evil, however unfashionable that may be, can begin to explain murder on that scale. In his fear of being judgmental, Reuter sometimes tries too hard to understand.

Foot soldiers of nihilism

He begins his analysis with the Iranian suicide battalions of the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Early in 1984, Iraqi machine-gunners heard what sounded like swarms of locusts approaching from behind the hills. The sound swelled as tens of thousands of mouths roared "Karbala!". It was a human wave attack. But the attackers were children. The Iraqis shot them like rows of empty bottles -- until in the end some of the Iraqis went mad or fled. No one can go on shooting children in their thousands and stay sane.

The suicide weapon soon spread across the world to the Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, Hamas in Israel, to Turkey, Kashmir, Chechnya -- and al-Qa'ida from Indonesia to the US.

Human bombs are cheap. The only costs are nails, an explosive, a battery, a switch, some chemicals and a strong belt with pockets. The most expensive part is the taxi ride to the target site. Training has also been simplified. Years ago the candidate had to spend two days in a grave next to a corpse to show he was the right stuff. Then he had to learn all about bombs. Today the queue of volunteers is so long that almost all a bomber has to do is wash put on clean clothes and ask God to forgive his sins. When he has strapped on his explosives and put the Koran in his left breast pocket, he is ready -- to kill and to die.

What is to be done? Reuter counsels patience. The West cannot destroy this epidemic by force of arms. The disease must run its course. Take Iran. Twenty years ago it was the homeland of the Islamic Revolution and the inspiration for all suicide bombers. But not today. When al-Qa'ida struck New York, there was popular if silent Schadenfreude in many parts of the Middle East -- but none in Iran, where there were spontaneously organised mass funeral processions.

Iranians have turned against the idea of suicide and indiscriminate killing to fight the Great Satan and have become the most secular, modern society in the region. They want a little peace, prosperity and democracy.

But, says Reuter, this transformation came from within. The same will happen everywhere, provided the West does not rely on military shock and awe as the Americans did in Baghdad and the Israelis do in Gaza. This advice is all very well. People will get tired of listening to the mad mullahs. The trouble is that meanwhile Osama bin Laden will have stockpiled his weapons of mass destruction.

Understanding and patience are essential, but they are not enough. We dare not drop our guard in their name. We also need strength. There is no peace without the sword.

Load-Date: June 25, 2004

News in Brief

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AUGUST 23, 2001 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

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Length: 844 words

Body

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* Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire filed papers yesterday to create an exploratory committee for an anticipated run for the U.S. Senate. The seat is held by Republican Robert C. Smith, who is seeking reelection in 2002. Shaheen, who is serving her third two-year term as governor, was first elected in 1996. She is the first Democratic governor since Hugh Gallen in 1982.

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Load-Date: November 15, 2001

In Surprise, Parenting Wins Top Award for Magazines

The New York Times
May 8, 2003 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section C; Column 1; Business/Financial Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 713 words

Byline: By DAVID CARR

Body

In a day full of surprises at the National Magazine Awards yesterday, the biggest came at the end.

The last and most prominent award, for general excellence for magazines with a circulation of more than two million, went to Parenting, Time Inc.'s monthly magazine aimed mostly at mothers. Although women buy the vast majority of magazines, magazines oriented to women rarely draw a nomination, let alone triumph over the likes of Newsweek, National Geographic and Sports Illustrated.

Clearly stunned, Janet Chan, the editor in chief of Parenting, pulled out a speech hastily scribbled on a menu for the awards lunch, which was at the Waldorf-Astoria in Manhattan.

"I hope I don't thank the halibut on the other side of the paper," she said.

Her acceptance came after quite a few surprises. Some fairly specialized publications took a turn at the podium to accept awards, including The Nation, for columns and commentary; Architectural Record, for general excellence for magazines with a circulation of 100,000 to 250,000; Scientific American, for single topic; The American Scholar, for essays; and Foreign Policy, for general excellence for magazines with a circulation under 100,000. And Texas Monthly, one of the few non-New York-based magazines that draws attention in the publishing capital, received some more when the judges, from the American Society of Magazine Editors, recognized it for general excellence for a magazine with a circulation of 250,000 to 500,000.

Moises Naim, the editor and publisher of Foreign Policy, said: "Our first time nominated and we won. I guess that means we can retire."

In past years, the lunch has been dominated by The New Yorker, with its editor, David Remnick, taking lap after lap to the front of the room. The New Yorker won two awards yesterday, for reporting and fiction, and The Atlantic Monthly, another perennial honoree at the awards, won in the public interest category and general excellence for magazines with a circulation of 500,000 to one million.

The Atlantic's general excellence award might have been seen as a tribute to Michael Kelly, a journalist who recently died in Iraq and had famously remade The Atlantic, but the vote was taken before his death.

The afternoon began with a moment of silence for Mr. Kelly, and much of the reporting that was rewarded afterward reflected the seriousness of current events, like Jeffery Goldberg's two-part series for The New Yorker, which took

In Surprise, Parenting Wins Top Award for Magazines

readers inside the Hezbollah, and The Atlantic's prescient questions of last October about the consequences of victory in Iraq. Harper's Magazine, another historical favorite of the judges, won the coveted feature writing category for John Jeremiah Sullivan's meditation on his sportswriter father and the racetracks he ambled through.

It was not all serious. When John Rasmus, editor in chief of National Geographic Adventure got up to accept an award for leisure interests for a series on national parks, he talked about the joys of collaboration between editor and writer. And then he read some e-mail correspondence between Tim Cahill, the writer, and Stephen Byers, the editor.

After going through several tortuous arguments with Mr. Byers, Mr. Cahill wrote: "I rewrote the thing to your specifications in the least dishonest manner I could. I am not happy. It is better to be honest than dishonest. It is better to be brave than cowardly."

Mr. Byers wrote back: "Unaccustomed as I am to the charges of being obtuse, cowardly, and dishonest, I've got to wonder -- will you still have that big mouth when you're not 2,000 miles removed? I salivate at the thought of finding out."

Mr. Rasmus's presentation brought both levity and a measure of reality to an event where the importance of magazine journalism is compared to everything noble short of world peace. At least no one pretended that the winning of a National Magazine Award would change the business calculus that magazines confront every day.

"I have never believed it had a huge impact on business," said John Skipper, a senior vice president at ESPN, the sports network. Its magazine won a general excellence award for magazines with a circulation of one million to two million. "It is important recognition for the staff, but I don't think it means \$10 to the bottom line."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Chart: "The Best in Magazines" Here are the recipients of the 2003 National Magazine Awards, presented by the American Society of Magazine Editors.

AWARDS FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE

MAGAZINE: Parenting CIRCULATION: Over 2,000,000

MAGAZINE: ESPN the Magazine CIRCULATION: 1,000,000 to 2,000,000

MAGAZINE: The Atlantic Monthly CIRCULATION: 500,000 to 1,000,000

MAGAZINE: Texas Monthly CIRCULATION: 250,000 to 500,000

MAGAZINE: Architectural Record CIRCULATION: 100,000 to 250,000

MAGAZINE: Foreign Policy CIRCULATION: Under 100,000

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

MAGAZINE: The Atlantic Monthly AWARD: Public Interest

MAGAZINE: The American Scholar AWARD: Essays

MAGAZINE: Conde Nast Traveler AWARD: Photography

MAGAZINE: Details AWARD: Design

MAGAZINE: Harper's Magazine AWARD: Feature Writing

MAGAZINE: The Nation AWARD: Columns and Commentary

MAGAZINE: National Geographic Adventure AWARD: Leisure Interests

MAGAZINE: The New Yorker AWARD: Fiction; reporting

MAGAZINE: Outside AWARD: Personal Service

MAGAZINE: Sports Illustrated AWARD: Profile Writing

MAGAZINE: Scientific American AWARD: Single-topic Issue

MAGAZINE: Slate AWARD: General Excellence Online

MAGAZINE: Vanity Fair AWARD: Reviews and Criticism

Load-Date: May 8, 2003

News in Brief

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Load-Date: November 15, 2001

[Search for 20 more Britons on the suicide bomb trail](#)

DAILY MAIL (London)

May 3, 2003

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Section: Pg. 2

Length: 826 words

Byline: Michael Seamark;David Williams

Body

FURTHER suicide attacks by British fanatics were feared last night after it emerged that more than 20 young men followed the Tel Aviv bombers to Syria.

Londoner Asif Hanif and his Derby-born accomplice Omar Sharif travelled to the Middle East country, branded by the U.S. as a 'rogue state' that sponsors terrorism.

The pair then moved on to Israel where Damascus University student Hanif killed three people when he blew himself up outside a seaside bar.

Security sources say at least 26 British passport holders are 'studying' in the Syrian capital Damascus but several cannot be traced.

The huge manhunt for Sharif continued in Tel Aviv yesterday with his picture plastered to the dashboard of every police vehicle and copies of his passport photograph handed out in streets and shopping centres.

Sharif, 27, a married father of two, had told friends he was travelling to Syria to continue his religious studies.

British intelligence agents and antiterrorist officers have been 'knocked sideways' by the Tel Aviv attack, with much of Scotland Yard, MI5 and MI6's recent efforts centred on Al Qaeda and Iraq.

Now they are concentrating on the Syrian connection, looking at movements of diplomats and officials around Europe and urgently checking on British students who have visited Damascus.

At least 40 were there last year - most being students - but the attack at the bar Mike's Place has forced an urgent re-evaluation.

Not only was 21-year-old Hanif Britain's first known suicide bomber, but both he and Sharif were unknown to police - 'lilywhites' with no apparent terrorist links and the hardest killers to trap.

A senior Israeli army officer yesterday said the Tel Aviv bombing was not an operation run by local Palestinians, but probably planned abroad.

Both Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror groups have offices in Damascus. Syria sponsors [Hezbollah](#), whose leader Sheikh Hasan Nasrallah six months ago called on Palestinians to 'take suicide bombings worldwide'.

Search for 20 more Britons on the suicide bomb trail

A specialist team from Scotland Yard is flying to Israel to join the hunt for Sharif, with British officials there saying he will be caught 'within days'.

Police spent yesterday scouring the southern part of Tel Aviv, a rundown area popular with foreign workers.

The official said: 'Whatever you say about the Israelis, they generally get their man.' 'They generally get their man' Sharif's father-in-law urged him to surrender. Irshad Tabassum, father of the fugitive's wife Tahira, said: 'I don't know where Omar is but he must give himself up immediately.'

Shaking with emotion outside his GBP 350,000 family home in West Norwood, southeast London, he added: 'My main worry is for my daughter.'

'I don't know where she is and I've been trying to contact her. I thought she was at home in Derby but there is no reply and I don't know where she has gone.'

'I just want to know my daughter is safe.'

'With regards to Omar, I don't know what this is all about. I only know as much as you do from watching the news reports on TV.' Extremist Moslem cleric Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, head of militant British group Al Muhajiroun, said he spoke to Sharif three weeks ago when he turned down his request to become a 'disciple'.

He described Hanif as funny and 'a real character' and Sharif as 'shy and polite'.

The Treasury last night asked the Bank of England to freeze all UK accounts belonging to Sharif and Hanif.

However, no banks will be able to act until Tuesday due to the holiday period.

Chancellor Gordon Brown said: 'We have taken immediate action to ensure that no UK funds belonging to those suspected of being responsible for this atrocity can be used to support terrorism.' Israeli soldiers last night shot dead a freelance British journalist who was filming a documentary in the southern city of Rafah close to the Egyptian border.

James Miller, an award-winning cameraman, was shot in the neck and died before a helicopter sent to evacuate him to a hospital arrived.

A fellow British journalist said Mr Miller and two colleagues were filming and waving a white flag as they walked towards the tank when it opened fire.

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FIVE people were arrested by antiterrorist police last night in connection with Tuesday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv.

Two men and two women were arrested in Derbyshire and a woman was held in Nottinghamshire.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said officers from the Metropolitan Police antiterrorism branch carried out the arrests, working with local police. She said the arrests were made as part of 'ongoing inquiries'. All five were taken into custody at central London police stations.

Police were also searching addresses in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire last night.

However, no weapons or explosive devices are believed to have been found.

The arrests were made under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, which relates to those suspected of being involved in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.

Search for 20 more Britons on the suicide bomb trail

Graphic

ON THE RUN: FAILED SUICIDE BOMBER OMAR SHARIF

Load-Date: May 5, 2003

End of Document

Powell heads to Syria with a mixed message

The Times (London)

May 2, 2003, Friday

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Section: Overseas news; 22

Length: 869 words

Byline: Bronwen Maddox

Body

What exactly are the United States and Britain trying to say to Syria?

The message Colin Powell delivers in Damascus tonight and tomorrow will be a carefully calibrated mixture of anger and exasperation. The Secretary of State will make very precise demands that Syria stop backing terrorism immediately.

On this point at least, the diplomatic language in Washington and London is identical. Syria has not yet "got the message", both capitals say caustically. In the past three weeks, it has shown signs of getting there, but in their view, has a lot to prove, very fast.

Yet you might forgive President Assad for complaining of mixed messages. On one hand, the US has stopped just a whisker short of saying that it certainly has a hitlist, and Syria is at the top. On the other hand, both Washington and London maintain far closer relations with Damascus than it suits them -or Assad -to publicise.

The backdrop to the Secretary of State's weekend trip to the region is, of course, the publication of the "road map". For this week he is leaving Israel and the Palestinians to mull over their response; he plans to return next week to embark on that project in earnest.

But first, Syria, with a brief stop in Beirut too. Powell will demand that Syria stop backing *Hezbollah*, the Lebanese-based terrorist group, which has been useful to Damascus in its campaign to win back the Golan Heights from Israel.

He will also demand that Syria stop making chemical weapons, something it has vigorously denied doing.

We know what the tone of Powell's comments will be because he rehearsed them in front of a Senate subcommittee on Wednesday. The world was "losing patience" with countries that develop weapons of mass destruction, using the Bush Administration's favorite new phrase, stronger than an ordinary warning but short of an ultimatum.

Telling Damascus that democracy in Iraq would change the Middle East, he instructed: "You might want to watch how that's happening." On Syria's practice of smuggling out Iraqi oil, against United Nations sanctions, he added: "No more free oil coming your way -you want to take a look at that."

So Syria should "watch" and "take a look"; the Bush Administration is not quite ordering it into line but laying out the runes in front of it.

Powell heads to Syria with a mixed message

Why so circumspect? After all, the US has plenty of reasons to be furious with Syria. The most immediate is the threat to US forces in Iraq from fighters sympathetic to Saddam Hussein or simply hostile to America. They crossed the Syrian border and embedded themselves in Iraqi towns and have been sniping steadily at American troops.

In something of a miscalculation (following its greater mistake of appearing to back Saddam), Damascus took longer than it might have done to appreciate just how furious this was making Washington. The Foreign Minister Mike O'Brien, in his recent trip to Damascus, spent a good part of a two-hour meeting with Bashar trying to convey the importance of the issue.

Assad did, finally, respond. Since April 7 the Syrian border has effectively been sealed, although there are inevitably weak points. For the moment, that thorn in the relationship has been removed.

So have others. O'Brien is also said to have secured the release of two members of British special forces who had been caught and held. In the past week, Syria is also said to have booted out Saddam's wife and daughters who had fled across the border in Iraq.

This is, we may assume, a reaction to the threats from the US and the rather warmer approach from Britain. Very much as we are seeing in Iran, British diplomats are enjoying the access and clout they have in the region from historical experience, from having been part of the attacking force in Iraq, and from simply not being American. They can go places Americans cannot reach and have conversations Americans could not hold.

But to make too much of this in public would undermine the effect of the threats from Washington, both on Syria and others in the region. Most important, it would not suit Assad, presiding precariously over an increasingly restive population, to have publicised the ways in which he has co-operated with American and British requests.

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday geared himself up to announce that combat in Iraq was over, as his Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, announces in Kabul that the Afghanistan war was over too.

Good of them to blow the final whistle. But what exactly constitutes the end of war?

In Afghanistan's case, it is simply that point which Rumsfeld has been longing to announce: the end of the main American-led combat operations. His declaration owes something to the several al-Qaeda arrests which Pakistan has pulled off in the past few weeks.

But the southeast of the country, in particular, is still rocked by fighting and banditry. Kabul's grip on the country is shaky. A small fraction of the promised aid has trickled in. Meanwhile, in pockets, religious police of a kind have reformed, trying to reimpose rules on women's dress and close schools for girls.

The end of war does not mean the start of peace or prosperity. In Afghanistan, those still look remote without more money, and at least some presence from foreign troops.

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GUNFIGHTS AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH 13 killed as Israel holds seven towns

Daily News (New York)

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SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Byline: By CORKY SIEMASZKO DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

The siege of Bethlehem raged on early today in gunfights at the Church of the Nativity - and Israeli tanks plunged deeper into Palestinian territory, taking control of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.

Twelve Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed on the sixth day of Israel's offensive against terrorists, a day that ended with Israel holding five of the West Bank's seven major towns and two smaller ones.

In Bethlehem, a trapped Franciscan priest issued a desperate plea for help as bullets pinged off the ancient flagstones of Manger Square.

"We appeal to the international community, nations of the world, to come to our rescue," the Rev. Ibrahim Faltas urged in footage smuggled out of the church by Italian reporters. "Unless you do something to solve this issue, we are in a real and great danger of being massacred at any moment."

The battle for Bethlehem began when Palestinian fighters fleeing the Israeli invasion Tuesday shot their way into the birthplace of Christ.

About 300 Palestinians - including women and children - were holed up inside with dwindling food and water. Nuns and priests tended to the wounded.

"The Israeli tanks are shooting at ambulances if they come too close to the church and refusing to let food or water inside," said Bilal Salameh, spokesman for the pro-Palestinian Independent Media Center.

Italian journalist Marc Innaro, who spent time in the church, said the gunmen "were very determined, not nervous, tired, but not willing at all to surrender."

Witnesses reported fierce gunfire in Manger Square, where the church is located. But a Palestinian policeman inside insisted it wasn't coming from them.

"Most of the guys have run out of bullets, and secondly, we're completely surrounded," said the cop, Samir, who would not give his last name.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's adviser Raanan Gissin insisted the Palestinians were using the church for cover.

GUNFIGHTS AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH 13 killed as Israel holds seven towns

"Because of our military operation, they return to their old practice of trying to use and abuse churches and holy sites in Bethlehem as a refuge and as a place from which they can conduct their attacks," he said.

Gissin said Israel had no intention of storming the shrine. But soldiers barred a delegation of Christian clerics trying to enter Bethlehem.

This angered the Vatican, which weighed in with "unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, from whichever side it comes." It also slapped Israel for the "injustice and humiliation" inflicted on the Palestinians. 500 tanks on move. Meanwhile, Israel widened the war and rumbled into Nablus and four refugee camps early today with 500 tanks and attack helicopters.

In Nablus, the Israelis were met with fierce resistance from gunmen who hurled Molotov cocktails and blocked streets with overturned cars and garbage cans filled with sand.

A Palestinian woman was killed and five people were wounded when shells hit an apartment building downtown.

"The Palestinian leadership urges our people to close ranks in a long-term struggle against this occupation," the Palestinian Authority said in a statement as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat remained trapped in Ramallah.

Israeli sources said Sharon is putting the final touches on plans for an offensive against the two major West Bank towns still under Palestinian control - Hebron and Jericho.

Israeli forces took over the Palestinian towns of Jenin and Salfit and surrounded the Jenin refugee camp, a militant stronghold. Soldiers fought gun battles with hundreds of armed men in the camp. Three militiamen, a nurse and a 13-year-old boy were killed in the fighting.

In other developments:

Hezbollah guerrillas again fired rockets into Israel from Lebanon and seriously wounded an Israeli soldier.

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein increased the reward money for the relatives of Palestinian suicide bombers from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Security officials evacuated several dozen Americans and Britons who were trapped in the Bethlehem Star Hotel.

American citizen Suraidah Abu Gharbiah, 21, who was born in Washington, was identified as one of the first fatalities of last week's Israeli incursion into Ramallah.

The Church of the Nativity was built above a cave believed to be the manger where Jesus was born.

It was built in A.D. 530 by Emperor Justinian.

Resembling a stone fortress from the exterior, the church was designed

to offer protection from invaders.

Only entrance is through a door slightly more than 4 feet high,

to prevent mounted horsemen from entering.

Persians ravaged the area in 614, destroying churches, but spared this one because of a mosaic of Magi dressed in Persian garb.

The basilica is 180 feet long, with a nave (aisle area) 94 feet wide and a transept (altar area) 120 feet wide. Supporting the structure are 44 white marble pillars that stand 20 feet tall.

The first church on the site was built

GUNFIGHTS AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH 13 killed as Israel holds seven towns

in the fourth century A.D. by Emperor Constantine and destroyed during a revolt in A.D. 529.

TAKING CONTROL

Israel now controls seven Palestinian-ruled cities and towns in the West:

Bethlehem

Ramallah

Nablus

Qalqilyah

Salfit

Tulkarem

Jenin

Graphic

ESRI JR DAILY NEWS

Load-Date: April 4, 2002

ARAFAT PULLS BACK FROM THE BRINK

Scotland on Sunday

June 3, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

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Byline: By Daniel Perry In Tel Aviv

Body

PALESTINIAN security chiefs ordered their forces to implement a ceasefire promised by president Yasser Arafat last night following the suicide bombing of an Israeli night club that killed 17 people.

In an attempt to defuse escalating violence and avert all-out war, a senior Palestinian official confirmed an urgent meeting had been convened with leaders of all Palestinian security agencies in the Gaza Strip.

"Orders were given directly from the leaders to the field leaders for practical, direct, urgent and immediate implementation of the decision," the official said.

Arafat, facing possible Israeli retaliation for Friday's bombing in Tel Aviv, pledged yesterday he would do his utmost to achieve a ceasefire after eight months of violence.

The order came as Palestinians were bracing themselves for Israeli revenge attacks after the suicide bomber blew himself up outside a seaside nightclub. As well as 17 fatalities, more than 90 people were injured.

The Palestinian Authority yesterday ordered its staff in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to leave their offices in case of attack, and in Nablus residents were urged to remain at home.

The Israeli army sealed off Palestinian towns and villages and closed border crossings. The navy ordered Palestinian fishing boats back to harbour and tanks entered Palestinian-controlled areas of Gaza for the first time since a ceasefire was announced 11 days ago.

Last night, Arafat, the Palestinian president, attempted to forestall Israeli retaliation by condemning the bombing and promising to work to produce a ceasefire. "We will now exert our utmost efforts to stop the bloodshed of our people and the Israeli people and to do all that is needed to achieve an immediate and unconditional, real and effective ceasefire."

However, Israeli politicians said Arafat would only be taken seriously when militants were re-arrested and his security forces acted to curb the violence.

Ariel Sharon was under domestic pressure to hit back at the Palestinians and international pressure to show restraint.

ARAFAT PULLS BACK FROM THE BRINK

The European Union typified international reaction when it condemned the bombing "in the strongest possible terms" and urged the Palestinian Authority to "do everything within its power to prevent terrorist attacks and bring those responsible to justice".

However, it urged Israel "not to take measures which result in a further escalation of the cycle of violence".

The bombing was the deadliest attack in four years and the latest in a series prompted by the current Palestinian intifadah or uprising.

A Palestinian man went to the Pacha nightclub on the promenade in Tel Aviv. Hundreds of young Russian immigrants were gathering to enter at 11pm when the bomb went off, spraying ball bearings, screws and nails over bystanders.

Those standing closest to the bomber - 12 women, including sisters aged 15 and 18, and five men - were killed instantly, while others were critically injured. Sixteen of the dead were recent Russian immigrants.

Alex Brodsky, 19, said: "We were waiting at the entrance to the discotheque and then we heard a huge explosion. After two or three seconds I saw people lying on the floor. Some had no legs, no arms."

Another witness, Roni, said: "I saw a ball of fire in the centre of the people and then heard an explosion. Something flew in the air and people were running everywhere."

Dudi Nachum, 21, said: "I was about to enter the disco. Suddenly I looked in the direction of the blast and I saw people thrown backward. I saw parts of a brain, things I have never seen before. It was terrible."

Ambulance crews had to collect remains from a wide area. Black plastic bags and blankets covered bodies, one lying under a car, as the ambulance workers gave first aid to more than 90 people. Their rubber gloves were covered with blood and empty plasma bags littered the ground.

The Israeli cabinet met after the bombing and said it held Arafat responsible accusing him of forming a "coalition of terror." The cabinet said it would take all necessary measures to protect Israelis, although it did not elaborate further.

Israeli civilians took to the streets to protest yesterday, demanding military action and stoning mosques.

Chanting "Death to Arabs" and throwing stones, people attacked a mosque across the street from the nightclub.

"They deserve it. Look what they did to us," one Israeli woman said outside the Hassan Bek mosque. "The Arabs in there are just like the Arabs who attacked the Jews over in the nightclub," she said.

Since fighting started last September, 484 people have been killed on the Palestinian side - including Friday's attacker - and 104 on the Israeli side. There were conflicting reports about who was responsible for the attack.

The Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite station said a group calling itself the Palestinian Hezbollah claimed responsibility.

Abu Dhabi television said the bomber was a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group. It is a measure of the depth of feeling among Palestinians - anger, resentment and in some cases despair - that there appears to be no shortage of recruits ready to die for a Palestinian state.

The suicide bombers are typically unmarried men in their late teens and 20s.

They act in the belief that they will go straight to paradise, where they will get places of honour next to God.

ARAFAT PULLS BACK FROM THE BRINK

End of Document

*Jane Eisner: Terrorism's tenuous link to poverty;
The absence of democratic institutions, not the plight of the poor and
uneducated in Arab lands, needs to be the focus of Western antiterrorism
efforts.*

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Byline: Jane Eisner

Body

"We fight against poverty," President Bush said recently, "because hope is an answer to terror."

Terrorism will not be defeated, World Bank president James Wolfensohn says repeatedly, unless world poverty is eradicated.

To our Western minds and pocketbooks, where money is the motivation for everything and poverty a niggling blot on our consciences, terrorism must be linked to poverty. Who else but the poor and uneducated would be desperate enough to kill innocent people and terrorize millions of others, or support those who commit such horrible crimes? Only the ones left in a heap at the bottom of society, with nothing else to lose, would hijack airplanes, detonate suicide bombs, or attempt to destroy civilization's foundations.

And therefore economic opportunity and education - the twin tools of American success - are the antidote to terror, the vaccine against this virulent, modern disease. Raise income levels, improve the standard of living, put money in the pockets of Third World citizens and food on their tables and they won't turn themselves into weapons of mass destruction.

Or so the reasoning goes.

But there's another argument gaining adherents among those who spend their time trying to pinpoint the precise "root causes" of terrorism, and it should interest the rest of us who pay the price and foot the bill for antiterrorism efforts.

In fact, terrorists draw their support and their human ammunition not from the most impoverished, illiterate in their societies, but from the educated and (relatively) well-off. In fact, terrorists are not motivated by a desperate, ill-informed attempt to improve living conditions, but by religious and political fanaticism bred in countries without democratic infrastructures.

Jane Eisner: Terrorism's tenuous link to poverty; The absence of democratic institutions, not the plight of the poor and uneducated in Arab lands, needs to be t....

Terrorism isn't an economic crime; it's a violent form of political engagement. And this understanding, says Princeton economist Alan B. Krueger, should lead the West to very different solutions from the ones promoted now.

"We should be helping to bring in more democracy and develop dissent in nonviolent ways," Krueger says. "Reducing poverty is not an answer."

Krueger and Jitka Maleckova, a Mideast expert at Charles University in Prague, came to this conclusion after analyzing several pieces of evidence. They pored over newspaper stories about 129 members of the terrorist organization Hezbollah in Lebanon who died in action, mostly against Israel, from 1982 to 1994 and found that the terrorists were, on average, more educated and less impoverished than the Lebanese population.

They made a similar analysis of 27 Israeli Jewish extremists who committed terrorist acts in the early 1980s and found that they, too, were overwhelmingly well-educated and in high-paying occupations.

Most persuasively, they studied several years of polling of Palestinian public opinion and found that support for suicide bombers was strongest among the better-educated, the merchants and professionals. The illiterate and unemployed were the least supportive.

Beyond these studies, there's plenty of anecdotal evidence to debunk the link between poverty and terrorism. Look no further than Spain and Ireland - two relatively affluent nations struck repeatedly by terrorism - or for that matter, Oklahoma City. As Michael Radu of the Foreign Policy Research Institute wrote recently: "Ever since the Russian intellectuals 'invented' modern terrorism in the 19th century, revolutionary violence - terrorism is just one form of it - has been a virtual monopoly of the relatively privileged. Terrorists have been middle class, often upper class, and always educated, but never poor."

The well-schooled, well-heeled hijackers on Sept. 11, then, were not the exception but the rule.

And although terrorism is not restricted to one region or nationality, a fascinating report issued in Cairo last week helps explain why it has taken root so dangerously in the Arab world. The report - compiled by Arab intellectuals and commissioned by the United Nations - warns that Arab societies are being crippled by a lack of political freedom, the repression of women, and a dramatic isolation from creative ideas and culture.

This even though the standard of living in Arab countries has advanced considerably. Life expectancy is greater than the world average, the level of abject poverty is the world's lowest, and infant mortality has sharply declined in recent decades.

Nevertheless, productivity is declining, science and technology are dormant, research and development are weak or nonexistent. The entire Arab world - 22 nations, 280 million people - translates about 330 books annually, one-fifth the number than little Greece translates each year.

And as if to underscore Krueger's message, the region scores the lowest in the world on a standard freedom index, which measures civil liberties, government accountability, political rights and media freedom. Even sub-Saharan Africa, with its searing poverty, offers its citizens more freedom and - not coincidentally - produces fewer terrorists.

Supporting democracy in non-Western cultures is a delicate, risky task. But in this year of terror, on this weekend of independence celebrations, it is one we should embrace with renewed passion.

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