

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

Job Number: 223498072

Documents (100)

1. [DEM DUMMIES Party can score points on security, but bashing Bush won't work](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

2. [Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed](#)

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. [Behind the Islamic curtain](#)

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. [IN LEBANON , IT'S UNWISE TO PAINT WITH A BROAD BRUSH](#)

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. [PEACE DEAL HIT AS TANK RAID KILLS GAZA FAMILY](#)

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. [Israeli missile lands within metres of Arafat](#)

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. [Irrational exuberance?](#)

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. [What Syria 's leader really wants from the West](#)

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. [Conservatives tighten hold on power Four distinct groups in Iran vie for control in effort to restore Islamic purity, experts say](#)

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. [IRAQ WAR: ASSASSINS WILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR BELIEFS](#)

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

11. [QUARTET: ABBAS MUST DISARM TERRORISTS](#)

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. [Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East](#)

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. [World Report](#)

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

14. [Foreign 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

15. [Horrific death toll that shocked a nation](#)

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. [New town, old scars](#)

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. [DIGEST](#)

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. [WORLD IN BRIEF](#)

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

19. [EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE; OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST](#)

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

20. [EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST](#)

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

21. [Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes](#)

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. [Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes](#)

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

23. [A whiff of Arabic culture on Cote Vertu](#)

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

24. [Arabic channels bring the war back home](#)

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. [Expat 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

26. [Israeli removal of outpost called half-hearted](#)

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. [*MPs shake hands on peace as rockets hit*](#)

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. [*Arab view dims on Iraq rebels*](#)

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. [*Hussein's removal could unite Mid-East*](#)

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. [*Israelis ordered into shelters*](#)

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. [*Suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis Attack by Palestinian policeman coincides with prisoner exchange*](#)

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. [*Fear in Syria : After Iraq , who's next?*](#)

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. [*Israel targets Hezbollah in Lebanon*](#)

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. [*TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY*](#)

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. [*A victory against 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

36. [*Attack on Afghanistan : Tehran remembers: Exhibition opens in former US embassy*](#)

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. [Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing](#)

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. [Israeli troops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead](#)

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. [WORLD-WISE - THE WEEK'S BEST COMMENTARY](#)

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. [Cheney raps Arafat for role in terror: Comments hint U.S. may cut ties with Palestinian leader](#)

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. [IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON 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

42. [*After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria*](#)

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. [*World datelines*](#)

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. [*Cheney hints ties to Arafat will be cut: Vice-president accuses leader of conspiring with Iran*](#)

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. [*Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better*](#)

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. [*B'nai Brith sues feds over Hezbollah*](#)

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

47. [Anti- Syrian demonstration the biggest yet in Lebanon](#)

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. [IRAQ GOVERNING COUNCIL](#)

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. [In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics](#)

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. [Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year 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

51. [Israel blames Syria for 2 suicide bombing attacks; Israeli leader warns of 'additional steps' for harboring leadership of the Hamas militant group](#)

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. [There's little U.S. can do to stop regional Mideast meltdown Analysis](#)

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. [Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian 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

54. [Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of the Irish republican movement have been left behind](#)

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

55. [Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to hold onto power](#)

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

56. [WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK](#)

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. [Two-Front Insurgency](#)

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

58. [Stand up to the evil-speak: Vote](#)

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. [Intifada leader uses courtroom to point to one-state solution: Barghouti defiant during closing speech](#)

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

60. [Hezbollah bombed after Israeli bulldozer attacked](#)

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. [Resolute 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

62. [CELEBRATION OF ASHOURA NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH](#)

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. [ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

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

64. [New terror threats put Israel on high alert: Spy chief expects unprecedented attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Content Type
News

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

65. [Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast](#)

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

66. [TALIBAN SHOOT AT HIGH-FLYING PLANE](#)

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

67. [West rebukes Israel 's assassins: Major powers declare that murdering Palestinian fighters is illegal, but Israelis support the state's policy](#)

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

68. [Rice in London for Iran talks;](#)

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. [IRA: Give up the guns, go straight](#)

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. [Good news from 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

71. [WOMAN BOMBER'S CARNAGE](#)

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 Good That Could Come From Sharon's Gaza Gambit FAR AND AWAY](#)

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. [Honoring womankind at Southern Illinois U.](#)

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. [AP dismisses reporter over mystery sources](#)

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. [Honour is Iraq 's secret weapon](#)

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

76. [BOMB KILLS 6 & INJURES 84 POWELL POSTPONES MEETING WITH ARAFAT](#)

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. [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

78. [The World'S Most Elusive Terrorist](#)

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. [*He backs suicide bombers, sponsors terrorism, tramples on human rights and is said to be arming Iraq . So why the red carpet for Syria 's President?*](#)

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. [*Beauties and the 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

81. [*'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics*](#)

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. [*Muslims presenting suggested reading*](#)

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. [*Palestinians turn out to vote for president;*](#)

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. [Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks; Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'](#)

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

85. [Killings won't lead 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

86. [WORLD MOVES TO CONDEMN 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

87. [HEROISM?](#)

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

88. [Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships](#)

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. [CROSSROADS ON ROUTE MAP TO PEACE -1](#)

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. [NEWSDESK](#)

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. [Fighting for a nation's honour - WAR ON 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

92. [Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns](#)

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. [Is black-market baby formula financing 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

94. [Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners](#)**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. [SECRET BID TO END BOMBING; FOCUS MI6 IN UNDERCOVER TALKS WITH HAMAS AS BLAIR WOOS PALESTINIAN MILITANTS](#)**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. [The day Derek realised he had a future in art](#)**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. [A military difference](#)**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. [Universities must lead open discussion of Mideast issues](#)**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. [U.S. policy singles out Syria](#)

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. [Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike](#)

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

DEM DUMMIES Party can score points on security, but bashing Bush won't work

Daily News (New York)

December 29, 2002, Sunday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMNOPINION

Length: 909 words

Byline: BY ZEV CHAFETS

Body

The Democrats are putting out the word: They intend to defuse charges that they're soft on national security by being tougher than President Bush on domestic terrorism.

Who comes up with this stuff?

The Democrats may be correct when they argue that the United States isn't significantly safer from terrorist attack than it was before Sept. 11. But the party has precisely no chance of making homeland hawkishness its issue, because its far-left wing adamantly opposes the single most necessary component of any internal security policy: identifying the enemy.

Far-left Democrats sometimes put their objection in practical terms - they argue that profiling young Arab and Iranian men isn't an efficient way to look for terrorists. In fact, there is no other way. Fighting domestic terror means finding the bad guys and their enablers. They will not be found at the local Elks Lodge. The usual suspects are usual for a reason.

The administration has the Patriot Act. To get to Bush's right on this, the Democrats will need a Patriot Act Plus. Today's Democrats aren't there, and until they get there, homeland security belongs to the Republicans.

So does Al Qaeda. When a Democratic senator like Patty Murray of Washington says Osama Bin Laden is popular in the Arab world because he builds day care facilities, and nobody in the Democratic leadership begs to differ, that's pretty much the end of any liberal claim to muscular credibility on Al Qaeda. Give it to Bush.

And Iraq, too. The Democrats had their chance during the congressional debate on the war to get a half share of Iraq's Saddam Hussein, and they blew it. Most of those who voted with the President let it be known that they didn't really see how Saddam posed much of a threat, but hey, it's an election year. The no voters - including incoming House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi - added that while Saddam may be bad, there's no proof he's got anything to do with international terrorists.

As the Democrats learned in November, a majority of voters have no problem seeing the threat from Baghdad. And even absent courtroom-quality proof, they get the essential way in which Saddam and Al Qaeda are connected. Saddam himself recently underscored it by declaring his dispute with Washington to be a holy war. So much for the theory that secular Saddam couldn't possibly be linked to fundamentalist Bin Laden. So much for the expertise of the Democratic foreign policy establishment.

DEM DUMMIES Party can score points on security, but bashing Bush won't work

What the party of Truman and Kennedy needs is a security threat it can actually understand and honestly embrace. Fortunately, the counterjihad is just getting under way, and the Islamic Middle East is an enemy-rich environment.

For several months now, Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, the ranking Democrat on the Intelligence Committee, has been focusing on **Hezbollah** and its two state sponsors, Iran and Syria. He calls them a greater threat to America than Saddam or Al Qaeda, and he could be right.

The Republicans are aware of the Iran-Syria-**Hezbollah** threat, of course. Bush included Tehran in his axis of evil. Secretary of State Powell's deputy, Richard Armitage, calls **Hezbollah** "the A-Team of terrorism." If it turns out - as Israel charges - that Syria is hiding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Damascus, too, goes on the White House enemies list.

Still, the Iran-Syria-**Hezbollah** front is not at the moment a Republican priority. The Democrats have a chance to get ahead of the curve. Besides, they have a score to settle with the ayatollahs, who wrecked the presidency of Jimmy Carter. There is poetic justice in using Iran and its friends to elect a new Democratic President. This is a thought that possibly has occurred to Graham, whose name has begun to surface on the media list of possible primary contenders.

An even more promising Democratic target is Saudi Arabia. It has ties, real and imagined, to the Republicans through Big Oil. It offends nearly every Democratic principle and constituency. And - except for Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, American-Arab groups and some academics and ex-diplomats on the take - the House of Saud doesn't have many local admirers.

Even the most dedicated peaceniks would have a hard time turning the Saudis into a Third World victim of American imperial aggression. The kingdom is a fascist police state that represses **women**, homosexuals and Jews (and Christians, although that isn't a Democratic concern). Its petroleum products are a major international polluter. Capital punishment is a form of public entertainment. They are even rumored to be anti-choice.

Republicans like incoming House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, Indiana Rep. Dan Burton and Arizona Sen. John McCain would like to make Saudi Arabia a GOP issue. But they have been frustrated by the administration, which for reasons of oil and bureaucratic timidity doesn't want a break with the kingdom.

This opens a Democratic door of opportunity. Watch for Joseph Lieberman, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Richard Gephardt and other Democratic worthies to come charging through it, swords flashing.

Will Democrats be able to reconstitute themselves as warriors? They're late, but not too late. The fight against the jihad will be a long one, and the Democrats can have a part in winning it.

Or they can stay on the sidelines, making excuses for the enemy and secretly - but transparently - hoping the Republican war, which is the American war, turns into a disaster.

E-mail: zchafets@yahoo.com

Graphic

ILLUSTRATION BY DALE STEPHANOS

Load-Date: December 30, 2002

Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 5, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; News

Length: 636 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his pledge to the United States not to harm Yasser Arafat no longer holds, declaring that the Palestinian president and the head of Lebanon's **Hezbollah** are potential targets for assassination.

In an interview set for broadcast today by Israeli army radio, Sharon said that three years ago he promised President George W. Bush that Israel would not harm Arafat, but circumstances have changed.

"Arafat was (then) given red carpet treatment everywhere in the world. Today it is clear to the United States and to everyone just who Arafat is," Sharon said.

Israel and the U.S. are boycotting Arafat, charging he is responsible for Palestinian violence. Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said he was not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could act against him.

The Associated Press

"I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our **women**, for our students."

On March 22, Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder and leader of the violent Islamic Hamas movement, and officials said Israeli forces would mete out similar treatment to others involved in the organization or execution of attacks on Israel.

Asked by the army radio interviewer if that meant Arafat and **Hezbollah**'s Sheik Hassan Nasrallah were targets, Sharon replied: "Whoever aims to kill Jews, whoever sends murderers to kill Jews, is marked for death."

Israel accuses Arafat of not only ignoring violent groups operating from territory under his control, but actively encouraging attacks against Israelis. Nasrallah said last week that his Lebanese militant group will help Hamas avenge Yassin's death.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a bloody 18-year guerrilla war in south Lebanon before Israel's withdrawal in 2000 and the two are still bitter enemies.

Sharon said he had not sought American approval for any strike against Arafat or Nasrallah.

Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

"I didn't ask permission from anyone," he said. "I want to emphasize again that anyone who kills Jews because they are Jews is marked for death."

Hamas has claimed responsibility for suicide bomb attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis in over three years of conflict.

Sharon made similar threats in other interviews ahead of the Jewish Passover holiday, which starts at sundown today.

Sharon got into a heated argument yesterday with hardline cabinet ministers opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, government officials said.

The spat reflected the tough internal pressure Sharon faces as he tries to move forward with his proposal. Sharon has proposed leaving the areas, removing troops and uprooting settlements in the process, to reduce friction between Israelis and Palestinians after more than three years of fighting.

He has said he will carry out the plan next year if peace efforts with the Palestinians remain stalled.

In weekend interviews, Sharon said for the first time that Israel would pull out of all of Gaza, uprooting all the settlements there, reversing an earlier indication that three settlements in northern Gaza would remain. The pullback in the West Bank would be much more limited, with only four of about 135 settlements being removed.

Palestinians charge the plan is a ruse to trade Gaza for a permanent grasp over most of the West Bank. They insist such moves must be co-ordinated with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which leads to a Palestinian state.

However, neither side has carried out its initial obligations under the plan, leading Sharon to his proposal for unilateral action.

Sharon's plan faces considerable opposition within his coalition government and some hardline members have threatened to pull out.

If any coalition partners leave, Sharon is expected to court the dovish Labour party to keep his government afloat.

Graphic

Photo: David Silverman, the Associated Press; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says he didn't seek American approval for a strike against Arafat.; Photo: Associated Press; Yasser Arafat has shrugged off the Israeli threat.

Load-Date: April 5, 2004

Behind the Islamic curtain

The Sunday Star-Times (Auckland)

October 27, 2002

Copyright 2002 Fairfax New Zealand

Section: NEWS; INTERNATIONAL;

Length: 2051 words

Byline: FISHER David

Body

We are entering a world where Islam is all and Bali is seen as a Western taint on a land that is ruled by God.

Here at al-Mukmin, the Islamic school in central Java, the world's most wanted man, Osama bin Laden, is a hero.

This school is the centre of power of Abu Bakar Bashir, the spiritual leader connected to a spate of bombings and linked with al Qaeda. Bashir is being detained at a hospital near the school he founded, protected by its students, his loyal henchmen.

Entering al-Mukmin is not easy.

Visitors are stopped at the gate by carbon copies of the guards at the hospital. They wear the same combat gear and the same angry faces.

One wears a T-shirt bearing the face of Osama Bin Laden. This is not a place to be American, and it helps that few know where New Zealand is.

Names and addresses are written in a visitors' book and identity cards and passports carefully scrutinised. It is here, at the gate, that women will be turned away by grim guards, unless they don the traditional Muslim headdress that covers the head and upper body.

As the dust settles around Paddy's and Sari Club, it is a serious business being Muslim. Once again, it is Islam against the world.

Usually this is a country where everyone smiles. But now it seems the students at al-Mukmin, like the people of Bali, have forgotten how.

Rules on the walls of the visitors' room ban smoking, instruct women to cover up and set a strict timetable for students. Visitors have to go inside, out of sight, at prayer times. There is a guard duty roster for senior students.

We are allowed in and introduced to Bashir's second-in-command and deputy principal of the school, Wahyudin. Minders, assigned to each European for the duration of the school visit, wait outside.

Wahyudin, 56, is polite and welcoming. There is great interest in al-Mukmin at the moment, and he wants to explain.

Behind the Islamic curtain

"There is no connection between Abu Bakar Bashir and the bomb in Bali. Mr Bashir is a very simple person and is very kind to everyone. His activities are just giving lectures or teaching. He is very, very busy with Islam."

He says this with a smile, hands spread to show there is nothing to hide. This is a school, he says, you are welcome to look around. Wahyudin leans close and smiles wider: "There are no terrorists here. There is no military training here. All the activities of the school are to teach Islam."

What of the T-shirts with the automatic rifle emblems? What of the combat fatigues and bandoliers?

"This is the psychology of young men. This is just how young men are. They want to feel strong. It is to show presence, to threaten."

Yes, he admits, the school does pay for the uniforms but that is not an encouragement to the students. However, he says, you must understand how they feel. "These young men, they read and see in newspapers that many Muslims are attacked in many countries.

In Afghanistan, Pakistan and Chechnya. What do you do to show that you are here and that you want to help them?

"Now, in the world, a Muslim has little freedom. We feel very sorry that America, before, helped Afghanistan defeat the Russians, then they attacked after the World Trade Center accident even though they didn't prove who was to blame for the accident.

"Terrorism is just something that the west use as a justification to attack Muslims. It is to justify the reaction from George Bush and Tony Blair.

"They hate Islam. They want oil."

Wahyudin is not fervent or insistent. His body language speaks of openness. He believes in what he is saying--this is the truth, al-Mukmin style. Inside the classrooms, across the campus of 600 students, this is what the fundamentalist Muslim young are being taught.

"We are the common people. Many, many military people in Indonesia say the accident in Bali was not done by the common people. It was done using C4 (a plastic explosive) and RDX (a compound of plastic explosive). The US, UK, France and Israel have access to this.

"Perhaps it is the same as the people who did the WTC building. Who knows who that was? It was not done by Muslims. For the Muslim, there is a teaching in Islam that although it is in a war, it is forbidden too kill a woman or a child."

He sits back, relaxing into the leather sofas in this open, marble-floored meeting room. The bombing--or "accident"--in Bali is "a bad thing".

But now that you are here, he says, it is best to explain a few things.

Treat Islam fairly, let it expand to its natural boundaries, he says. Indonesia can live side by side with other people, as long as the fighting arm of the west stops striking Muslim countries.

"Stop fighting against Muslims or it will burn the world," he warns. "For Muslims, it is very cheap to fight. We are so many.

"If America uses this situation to find that Muslims are terrorists, it would be a war. It is better for America to help the people, to educate them. It is better to see America, England or Australia to talk together, hand in hand, about this situation. "But do not press Islam or it will burst."

It was foreign pressure that forced the Indonesian police to move against Bashir, says Wahyudin. Without the strong arm of Australia, Britain and the US, he would still be at the school, teaching Islam's future.

Behind the Islamic curtain

"What kind of justice is this? We have reminded the police to do everything by the law.

"The majority of people here are getting upset with the situation. Now they are aware that the US is pressing to take Mr Abu Bakar Bashir to America."

This rumour started making its way through the hospital and school on Monday, prompting increased anger and tension. The young bodyguards, already on edge, become more threatening and increasingly angry.

"If Mr Bashir is accused here, it must be settled here. He must not go to America. If there are people to testify against Mr Bashir, it is for America to send those people to Indonesia, not for Mr Bashir to go outside Indonesia."

Wahyudin is speaking of Omar al-Faruq, al Qaeda's emissary to South East Asia who was captured and handed to the US earlier this year. According to US authorities, al-Faruq, who is married to Indonesian Mira Augustina, implicated Bashir in a string of terror attacks during questioning.

The al Qaeda link is also rejected by Wahyudin, who says Bashir has never met Bin Laden, or even spoken to him by telephone.

It is just another Western lie.

"There is enough anger here for the Indonesian people to rise up if the government does not do the right thing. If the government does not take great care of this case, the Indonesian people will rise up.

"Indonesia has to settle its own case (over Bali and Bashir). It has to be very, very careful." Wahyudin stands, explaining he has another class to teach. Outside, a truck slows for a group of students to climb aboard. They are leaving for the hospital--it is their shift to control and guard their leader. Like an army moving to a war zone, they clamber aboard.

Fellow students are in class, where they are forbidden to speak Indonesian. A sign on the wall reminds them: "Do speak English or Arabic. Speak now or be stupid forever--language advisory."

Stickers adorn windows, telling students to prepare for "Jihad" (holy war) as "mujahidin".

Outside a classroom, filled with eager faced pupils wearing traditional Islamic shifts and caps, is another sign. This one reads: "You need the boarding school for study, live for the struggle."

In the student dorms, the latest news on Bashir and the Bali bombing has been printed from an Islamic news service and pinned to notice boards.

It sits alongside an order from "The Council of Mujahidin for Islamic Law Enforcement", which states that Bashir was not responsible for the Bali attack, and that he should not be arrested. The notice tells students that it is an attempt by the US to build hatred among Muslims, and it accuses the government of being agents of America.

Another sticker: "Be a good Muslim or die as a traitor."

It's a message aimed at impressionable teenagers, and sits with a calendar of Bin Laden, and other stickers urging devotion to "jihad".

Attempts to talk to a first-year student about Bali prompt the ever-present minder to step in.

"You are not to talk about this," he says, hands sharply waving the student silent.

It is not just minds that are shaped here, but bodies. The school also puts its students through rigorous physical exercise. Push ups, sit ups and calisthenics are performed before the regular afternoon martial arts classes. There is some marching, culminating in a Sunday morning run through the city, chanting and shouting while carrying long plastic poles in place of weapons. "We are preparing. It is our belief that the Holy Koran wants us to keep our power

Behind the Islamic curtain

in physical ways as well as our intelligence," says one minder, Ahmed Ru'Yatillah, 19, who has been at the school four years.

"Islam is not just inside. We must be prepared to defend if we are attacked. We must be prepared for those that are the enemies of Islam, and that is anyone who wants to stop us and our beliefs."

And what does he plan to do, when he finishes school this year? "I will be a preacher, a prophet. I will travel and carry the message."

Inside, the 15-year-old junior classes recite lessons in Arabic. These teenagers, from across Indonesia, have just begun their tuition at the hands of Bashir.

All across this small city, once the centre of an ancient Javanese kingdom, are small groups speaking with the same voice. They can be found across Indonesia, part of a growing movement urged by Bashir, and others of a similar mind.

One of these groups, the **Hizbullah** Brigade, a Islamic fundamentalist militia group, hosted Bashir the night of the Bali bombing for its 58th anniversary. Of all the places his students might graduate to, this is the closest, based at Tegalsari, a strict Muslim village near Solo.

Hizbullah, which shares its name (God's Soldiers) with the Middle Eastern terrorist group, has changed much since it was formed as a militia in 1944 to fight the Dutch. Then, it was a fight for independence against Indonesia's colonial masters, who were returning in the wake of the retreating Japanese army.

After Indonesia won independence in 1947, **Hizbullah** resisted a merger with the army, and went its own way, clasping fundamental Islam teachings close.

"We are different to the **Hizbullah** in Palestine, but we have the same mission," says brigade commander Yani Rusmanto.

As the bomb tore through 190 lives, Bashir was photographed sitting at the front of the crowd, smiling, watching rows of marching militia being presented awards and medals.

Here, there is no question military training takes place. Rusmanto describes parade ground discipline, formed under a blazing sun each week. The group also hold regular field exercises. "It is for the Muslim god," says Rusmanto. "Beforeal Qaeda, before many other groups, it has existed a lot longer."

When it was formed, the enemy was the Dutch. Now, says Rusmanto, it is "criminals", those who don't follow strict Islamic law. In Java, he says, there are 10,000 members waiting for the call to arms.

He refuses permission to copy the photograph of Bashir, concerned that it might be misconstrued by the West.

"Abu Bakar Bashir is a good person. He never told anyone to attack like that. He is the wrong person for this and I don't agree with the police arresting him."

He speaks with anger of the US-led invasion of Afghanistan, and with frustration of other attacks across the world he believes are strikes at Islam.

Then, he explains a theory, often heard in Solo and across Java, as to who planted the bomb. "Americans put the bomb in Bali, or Mossad. It is to make hatred for Islam."

It is the same theory offered for the terror attacks in New York and Washington. There is no chance that the attacks were carried out by a Muslim, we are told.

The real terrorist here is the West.

"God's soldiers" are here to defend against such threats.

Behind the Islamic curtain

"No," he says, "we do not have weapons."

And if you need them, could you get them? He smiles.

A sticker on the window says: "There is no prestige without holy war."

These are our neighbours, separated only by Australia.

CAPTION:

Supporters of Abu Bakar Bashir link hands to stop media from gaining access to their leader. In the background are Indonesian military forces who seemed subserviant to Bashir loyalists.

Photo: David White

Load-Date: November 1, 2002

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IN LEBANON, IT'S UNWISE TO PAINT WITH A BROAD BRUSH

Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

June 16, 2002 Sunday, ALL Editions

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Section: OPINION; Pg. B2

Length: 580 words

Byline: Michelle Townsend

Body

We were driving home from the beach last Sunday evening in my friend Nayef's convertible with the top down. We all had just our swimsuits on and were singing along to a rap mix blaring from the speakers. Mo (short for Mohammed) starts laughing and skips ahead to another song, and stands up in the car.

"War! What is it good for?! Absolutely nothing!" he shouts along with 1970s rocker Edwin Starr. I look up and see Hezbollah banners waving from the streetlights.

Michelle Townsend, a 2000 graduate of Madison West High School, is a student at American University of Beirut, Lebanon. From time to time, Your Forum will carry Townsend's accounts of life in the Middle East.

"Oh my God! We're in Hezbollah territory and none of us have shirts on!" shouts Hanan, (Hezbollah is fundamentalist Shiite, and they believe that women should be covered.) "Hide yourself!"

Mo kept on singing at the people on the street, who probably didn't appreciate the lyrics, much less six boys and girls riding through the streets in their swimsuits. We kept driving, trying to get through their area in one piece, all the while getting a lot of irritated glares. We were at the last banner, about to go onto the open highway and a young boy, about 12, runs to the car and starts singing along with us, until his mother runs out from their fruit stand and pulls him inside by the ear.

The people here, in general, are able to look at their situation with a sense of humor. When I used to read stories about the Middle East in the United States, I got the impression that Arabs are very intense, angry and filled with bitterness. What has surprised me since I have been here is the lack of that. Most of my classmates and friends were born during the 1982 Israeli invasion and grew up during the Civil War. Most of their families moved out of Beirut during the war, but all of them witnessed Grandma's house getting shelled, their school getting shot at, militias looting the neighborhood grocery store. And it always amazes me that they aren't all in straight jackets, locked up in padded rooms.

There is anger, of course, mostly boiling frustration under the current of daily life. And it is directed at Israelis and Americans, mostly. However, even this is usually taken lightly.

"I hate Jews!" Mo declared, echoing what you will hear quite often around here. It's heard mostly because (1) they don't know that there is a difference between Jews and Israelis and (2) they have never met one. A Saudi friend, Nassim, who was with us, pointed this out. He was going to George Washington University until Sept. 11, 2001, and the terrorist attacks. Then the FBI started coming to his house and his parents got nervous and had him leave. He misses Washington a lot.

IN LEBANON , IT'S UNWISE TO PAINT WITH A BROAD BRUSH

"You know, I'm sick of having to prove I am Arab by hating Israel. Honestly, I don't care, why do we have to take the blows for them? Everywhere they go they cause trouble, look at what they did to Lebanon!"

"Hey, hey," protested Mo. "Let me put it in a way you can understand. Let's think of Israel as Bad Boy (the rap music label) In the words of Tupac, may he rest in peace, "%&@ the Bad Boy label, "%&@ the Bad Boy crew, and if you wanna be down with Bad Boy then "%&@ you too!"

Everyone started laughing and Nayef shook his head and said: "For us who think more often than our friend Mo here, we will tell you that we don't have a problem with the crew or those who are down with them, it's just the Bad Boy label that we have a problem with."

Load-Date: June 18, 2002

End of Document

PEACE DEAL HIT AS TANK RAID KILLS GAZA FAMILY

The Scotsman

August 30, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 704 words

Byline: Ben Lynfield In Jerusalem

Body

A FRAGILE attempt to reduce the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation in the Gaza Strip was on the brink of collapse yesterday after an Israeli tank fired into a Palestinian encampment, killing four people, including a mother and her two sons.

Palestinians said that the tank had used a weapon considered illegal by human rights groups, the flechette shell, which spreads thousands of deadly darts over a wide radius.

Four other people were wounded in the Bedouin community at Sheikh Ajlin, a mile south of the Israeli settlement of Netzarim, near Gaza City. One of the wounded was a four-year-old boy who was said to be in critical condition.

Khamis Krayem, a doctor at the intensive care unit of Dar al-Shifa Hospital, in Gaza City, said X-rays showed clearly that Mohammed Hajeen, 21 "has three nails in the chest." The Israeli army declined to comment, saying the entire incident was under investigation.

In an incident last year, three Bedouin women were killed at their homes in a village in the Gaza Strip by flechette shells.

The move to reduce tensions, known as Gaza-Bethlehem First, had already been teetering on Wednesday amid Israeli charges of Palestinian arms smuggling and Israeli army activity near Sheikh Ajlin.

The peace effort was based on the idea of Israel making limited army pull -outs in exchange for Palestinian police taking responsibility for security in vacated areas.

If successful, it was supposed to spread to other cities through the West Bank. But Palestinian hard-liners vowed to keep up attacks on Israeli targets and hard-liners in the Israeli establishment are also wary of the understanding, on the grounds that the withdrawals could restore power to the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

"Gaza and Bethlehem first is almost at a dead end," said Menachem Klein, a political scientist at Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv. "Israel is not really ready for such withdrawals."

Israel's defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the architect of the Gaza First plan, issued an apology for the killings. "I have ordered an investigation of what happened and I have announced I'm deeply sorry about it," Mr Ben-Eliezer told reporters. But that failed to stop the Palestinian interior minister, Abdul Razaq Yihya, from cancelling a planned meeting with him.

PEACE DEAL HIT AS TANK RAID KILLS GAZA FAMILY

Military sources said that the shooting had taken place at night and had come after "suspicious movements" by people in an area that was off-limits to Palestinians.

Monir Hajeen, 45, a relative of those killed who lives in the encampment, said that tanks had driven toward it, firing shells. One of the shacks had been hit by five shells, he said. He said that some of those killed and wounded had been sleeping, and that others had been sitting under a fig tree.

Mahmoud Zahar, a leader of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, said: "This gives new energy to escalate the resistance. We are not reacting, we are fighting to defend ourselves. Of Mr Yihya and other negotiators, he said: "They must take into account the feelings of the people. How can anyone sit down with the Israelis, and smile, while our blood is still fresh?"

Mr Arafat said in a statement that the attack was "a deliberate crime that aims to sabotage the peace efforts made by our friends, the Quartet group of international mediators and ... the Arab peace initiative."

Elsewhere, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas fired artillery rounds and anti-tank missiles at Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa Farms border zone, provoking an Israeli air raid and artillery fire.

Israeli security sources said three Israelis had been wounded.

Witnesses said that the guerrillas had opened fire on at least three positions in the area at the junction of the Lebanese and Syrian borders and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Israeli troops responded by firing artillery shells into the fringes of the border town of Kfar Shouba, overlooking Shebaa Farms, and an Israeli jet pounded that area with rockets. Two Israeli helicopter gunships were spotted pouring rocket fire on suspected Hezbollah positions. There were no immediate reports of casualties on the Lebanese side.

Witnesses saw Hezbollah fighters fire at, but miss, an Israeli helicopter with a surface-to-air missile.

Load-Date: August 31, 2002

Israeli missile lands within metres of Arafat

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 21, 2002 Thursday

Early Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 666 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

Israel was on the verge of a massive military offensive last night, hours after it fired a missile into the headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, where its forces have him trapped.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, appeared close to ordering the offensive against Palestinian militant groups after the most deadly attacks on Israeli forces in 17 months of the uprising.

In a sign of the conflict's dramatic escalation, an Israeli helicopter for the first time fired a missile at Mr Arafat's West Bank headquarters. It landed within metres of the building where he has in effect been under house arrest, ringed by Israeli tanks.

Mr Arafat escaped unscathed, but right-wing members of Mr Sharon's coalition are now openly saying he should resign unless he is prepared to bring down the Palestinian Authority.

This is despite a series of reprisal raids and a ban on the movement of Palestinians on main highways linking cities in the West Bank. Before dawn yesterday, the Israelis unleashed an air and naval bombardment in Gaza City. Palestinians said at least five guards were killed there.

In a separate strike, soldiers entered the West Bank city of Nablus and killed at least seven Palestinians, six of them security officers, in gun battles, Palestinians said.

Israeli officials confirmed that troops had struck Mr Arafat's Gaza headquarters. In 24 hours, 26 people have been killed.

"We have suffered 11 dead in 48 hours," said Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Mr Sharon. "This looks more like a premeditated guerilla war than sporadic terrorism. This cannot continue. There has to be a harsher response."

Despite the military siege, leaders of militant Palestinians have clearly been emboldened by the number of successful attacks against the Israeli Army, including the ambush that killed the six Israeli soldiers near Ramallah. The head of the Fatah faction in the West Bank, Marwan Barghouti, said: "The operation, which was one of the Palestinians' most successful ones recently, was carried out against an Israeli Defence Force roadblock one of those at which our women and

Israeli missile lands within metres of Arafat

elderly are stripped naked and forced to stand freezing. We have learned from the experience of the last year and half of intifada [the Palestinian uprising which began in September 2000]."

Following the ambush, Mr Sharon faces extraordinary pressure on all sides at home to deliver on his election promises to bring peace and security to Israel.

On one side, the Left wants him to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On the other, the Right is demanding tougher retaliation for a wave of highly sophisticated Palestinian attacks.

The former Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is promising to bring down the Palestinian authority if the Likud Party agrees to bring him back to the helm in favour of Mr Sharon.

Mr Sharon promised President George Bush during a visit to Washington earlier this month that he would not dramatically alter his strategic policy against the Palestinians for fear it could set the entire Middle East on fire. But in recent days, Israeli Government officials have sent messages to the US, Europe and some Arab governments that it may not be possible to hold on for much longer.

"The Prime Minister is close to issuing orders to the Israeli Defence Forces to enter Area A [territories under Palestinian self-rule] and to take massive action against the various terror organisations, even if this ultimately leads to the collapse

of the Palestinian Authority and Arafat's removal," the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv reported yesterday.

Israel believes outside forces, including the militant Islamic group Hezbollah from Lebanon, are inside the Palestinian territories and involved in the wave of guerilla-style attacks. "The Hezbollah footprints are found almost everywhere," said the Israeli Defence Minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

Hezbollah leaders claim its guerilla tactics forced Israel to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon and have called on Palestinians to emulate them.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Irrational exuberance?

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 11, 2005 Friday

FIVE STAR LATE LIFT EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B8

Length: 392 words

Body

POPULAR OPINION HOLDS that the successful election in Iraq has triggered a wave of democracy in the Middle East not unlike the surge of freedom following the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

Not only is this the view of the neoconservative architects of President George W. Bush's foreign policy, but also of some Democrats in Congress. Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., told The New York Times, "This moment in the Middle East has the feel of Central and Eastern Europe around the collapse of the Berlin Wall." Mr. Bush himself said his week that "clearly and suddenly, the thaw has begun" in the authoritarian Middle East.

We hope the optimism is justified. No matter what one thinks about the wisdom of the war in Iraq or the realism of Mr. Bush's vision of the Middle East, the success of modern, moderate democratic forces should hasten peace and prosperity in Middle Eastern countries.

Democratic movements that start as a trickle can turn into a wave of change once people realize that their individual actions actually can affect their lives and the direction of their country. Few experts predicted how fast the 1989 democratic revolution in Eastern Europe would sweep away the Iron Curtain.

But the exuberance of the moment in the Middle East has to be tempered by realism. The huge *Hezbollah* counterdemonstration this week followed by the reappointment of a pro-Syrian prime minister demonstrated that the Cedar Revolution is extremely fragile. *Hezbollah*, which is popular in Lebanon because of the perception that it drove Israel out of the country, could be the force best equipped to fill any power vacuum left by departing Syrian troops. That's not an outcome the United States wants.

Certainly, Saudi Arabia and Egypt responded to U.S. pressure in recent feints toward democracy. But women couldn't vote in the Saudi elections, and no one thinks that an election challenger will pose much of a threat to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's one-man rule.

Probably the most significant change in the Middle East is the progress between Israel and the Palestinians. That is largely the result of the death of Yasser Arafat.

People all over the world yearn for freedom. But it is a harder task for democrats and modernists to build free societies in places with few democratic traditions than it is for terrorists with medieval values to tear them down.

Notes

DEMOCRACY

Load-Date: March 11, 2005

End of Document

What Syria's leader really wants from the West

The Times (London)

December 17, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 16

Length: 965 words

Byline: Michael Gove

Body

Bashar al-Assad is playing the same game as other terror masters

Everyone seems to be a moderniser these days. Look around the globe and what do you see? Young leaders anxious to bring a breath of fresh air to their nations, eager to explore new economic opportunities, energetic in their pursuit of the benefits new technology can bring. Take Bashar al-Assad, the President of Syria, who is visiting his fellow moderniser Tony Blair this week.

The Prime Minister tells us, in the Financial Times, that young Bashar is "determined to bring about real change in Syria and there are encouraging signs. There is new legislation to enable foreign banks to operate and moves to reform public administration." Why, we're told he even picked up a taste for Western music while working in London. Bashar, he's my baby, no sir, don't mean maybe.

The energetic young Syrian President has, indeed, been making changes to his country since assuming power on his father's death in June 2000. In fact, he has done what many might have considered impossible. Bashar has turned Syria into an even viler terrorist state.

Since September 2000 Syria has stepped up its financial, military and political support for groups such as Islamic Jihad, Hamas and **Hezbollah**. Although the Syrian state's ruling ideology is secular Arab nationalism, Bashar has been happy to fund Islamic fundamentalist groups, provide them with weaponry and train their activists. The bombs which killed 21 civilians in the attack on a Tel Aviv disco in June 2001 were manufactured by a Syrian-trained killer working for Hamas, Tarek Akesh. The Islamic Jihad murderer, Ali Saffuri, responsible for co-ordinating a series of at least ten suicide bomb attacks, took his orders from Damascus.

Syria has also, under Bashar's go-ahead leadership, formed an ever-closer alliance with the Lebanese fundamentalist terror group **Hezbollah**. Bashar's father annexed Lebanon, once the Middle East's freest Arab nation, and reduced it to a militarised colony. His son has gone even further, in alliance with the Shia mass murderers of **Hezbollah**. On April 4 last year, to help to support Bashar's illegal occupation of Lebanon, the **Hezbollah** leader, Hassan Nasrallah, declared the presence of Syrian forces in the state "a regional and internal necessity for Lebanon" and a "national obligation for Syria".

Bashar, he fund crazies, yes sir, they kill babies. Bashar, who's your honey now?

Britain, apparently. For Mr Blair's response to the Syrian President's illegal occupation of sovereign nations, sponsorship of terror and continued repression of his own people, has been fawning. As well as laying on tea with

What Syria 's leader really wants from the West

the Queen, the Prime Minister has been laying it on with a trowel, offering advice on "economic reform" and providing a consultant to "author Syria's information technology strategy". The rationale for this tickling of terror's tummy is the old principle of "engagement". Britain, in Mr Blair's words, "is doing what it can to help" Syria to "play a fuller role in the international community". Putting to one side the obvious point that Bashar's idea, so far, of playing a fuller role in the international community is getting Islamic murderers to blow bits of it up, the Prime Minister should pause to consider just where Western "engagement" with terrorist states has led in the past.

Two years ago another "modernising" young leader was on the receiving end of a Western charm offensive. He too was anxious to open his country up, bring it out from under his father's shadow, solicit Western economic aid and explore the opportunities new technology might bring. He enjoyed a visit from the US Secretary of State, who promised to open "new avenues of communication, commerce and contacts".

And the result of this proactive engagement with a modernising young leader eager for Western knowhow? The leader in question, Kim Jong Il of North Korea, used foreign aid to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons to threaten his neighbours. He ignored international agreements, pioneering a ballistic missile programme which menaced the nations who had poured funds into his country. And he flouted rules on arms proliferation to supply other terror states with the fruits of his labours. As we were all reminded just last week when a secret consignment of his Scuds was intercepted en route to Yemen.

Kim Jong Il has reacted to "engagement" as any good tyrant would, using it as an opportunity to screw appeasers in the West for resources and expertise with which to strengthen his oppressive rule. The West should have known what it was getting into. Kim Jong Il has been responsible for the abduction of scores of foreign nationals, a bomb in Burma which killed several members of a South Korean delegation and the downing of a South Korean airliner in which 115 people died. Yet still Western leaders thought he could be "engaged". To the extent of building nuclear reactors for him. Only to find he was building nuclear bombs for use against them. But hey, how were they to know, he claimed he wanted to learn from the West? He said he even liked jazz.

Kim Jong, he's amazing, yes sir, proliferating. Kim Jong, who's your baby now?

Bashar al-Assad, as it happens. The Syrian President has come to appreciate the Korean leader's example, to the extent of acquiring Scud missiles from him, as well as developing his own little tranche of chemical and biological weapons to help to fill that awkward space in the rocket between the propulsion mechanism and the shell casing.

Having benefited so much from North Korean expertise already, we can confidently expect that Bashar knows just how to make engagement with the West work. As women soon to become widows across the Middle East will shortly find out.

michael.gove@thetimes.co.uk

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

Conservatives tighten hold on power Four distinct groups in Iran vie for control in effort to restore Islamic purity, experts say

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

November 29, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P8A

Length: 454 words

Byline: THE WASHINGTON POST

Body

TEHRAN, Iran - After eight years of a bold but bungled experiment with reform, Iran's government is in the throes of a takeover by conservatives determined to restore the revolution's Islamic purity, according to Iranian politicians and analysts.

The transformation is symbolized by the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose limited scholarly credentials were questioned even by his peers when he was selected 15 years ago. His authority caused a national debate during the reform era, when he was in danger of being sidelined politically, analysts said.

Today, however, they said, Khamenei is more powerful than at any time since 1989, when he succeeded the leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Critics said his control is as far-reaching as that of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before he was overthrown in 1979.

Khamenei's consolidation of power, partly through a new parliament that took office in May, has given even more leverage to religious institutions, including the judiciary, the Revolutionary Guards and vigilante groups such as Ansar Hezbollah, analysts said.

As a result, fear, intimidation and harassment have become instruments of the state in ways reminiscent of the early fervor following the 1979 revolution, Iranians complain. Women can still get away with relaxed dress, but the debates over political openings and reforming Islam have gone behind closed doors, or ended.

Conservatives say they are merely putting the Islamic republic back on course and restoring limits on discourse while not undoing social change.

Critics warn of a future with further restrictions, particularly after a presidential election next year that many Iranians expect conservatives to win.

Beyond Khamenei, Iran's future is still far from settled. The big question in Tehran these days is about which conservatives will dominate. Their camp now offers at least four distinct philosophies about running the country and dealing with the outside world.

- The ideological conservatives take the most puritanical line. They take a tough stance in dealing with the outside world and on Iran's nuclear energy program.

Conservatives tighten hold on power Four distinct groups in Iran vie for control in effort to restore Islamic purity, experts say

This faction generally opposes renewing ties with the United States. Despite smaller numbers, its adherents are disproportionately powerful because they are highly vocal and are backed by vigilante groups such as Ansar **Hezbollah**.

- The new right, or neoconservatives, represent the most influential political faction. They have the largest presence in the new parliament, the judiciary and the powerful Guardian Council, a body of 12 unelected clerics that can veto new laws and political candidates.

The neoconservative platform mixes religious ideology with aspects of modernity.

Load-Date: December 1, 2004

End of Document

IRAQ WAR: ASSASSINS WILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR BELIEFS

Birmingham Post

March 31, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: ROP; Pg. 5

Length: 444 words

Body

Although suicide terrorism dates back to at least as long ago as the 11th century and the Assassins of Persia, the modern history of such attacks began in Lebanon in 1983.

An operative of Islamic extremist group **Hizbullah** drove a truck-bomb into the US Embassy in Beirut in April 1983, killing 63 people and injuring 120.

Six months later the group carried out simultaneous suicide truck-bomb attacks on the US Marines headquarters and the French paratroopers' compound in the city, killing 242 Americans and 58 French soldiers.

Suicide attacks organised by the group dropped off when Israel pulled out of central Lebanon - although a suicide car-bomb attack on the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 killed 29 people and wounded 250.

The lone suicide bomber, wearing a 'bodysuit' packed with explosives, became a chosen method of the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka and Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Israel.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, or Tamil Tigers, have carried out more than 160 suicide attacks over the past 15 years as they fight for an independent Tamil state in north eastern Sri Lanka.

Using suicide attackers, they have managed to kill two heads of state - Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993.

Jane's Intelligence Review estimates 30 per cent of the Tamil Tigers' suicide operations have been carried out by **women**.

Women are often used because they appear less suspicious and in conservative societies in the Middle East and South Asia there is a hesitation to body search **women**.

Women can also wear explosives beneath their clothes and appear pregnant.

Suicide terrorism arrived in Israel in 1993 and since then Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have carried out numerous attacks.

Hamas and PIJ focused initial suicide attacks on military targets but soon shifted their attacks to civilians in central cities and crowded areas, realising the fear caused by the attacks has a great impact.

The second Palestinian intifada, which began in 2000, has featured numerous suicide attacks, many on busy markets, buses and bars packed with young people.

IRAQ WAR: ASSASSINS WILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR BELIEFS

Al Qaida used truck-bombs in simultaneous suicide attacks against the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998. The attacks killed 224 people.

A suicide attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in October 2000 blasted a 40 sq ft hole in the ship's hull, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39.

In the September 11 2001 terror attacks, Osama bin Laden's organisation again used operatives willing to die - hijacking passenger jets and flying them into the World Trade Centre in New York. The attack claimed nearly 3,000 lives.

Load-Date: March 31, 2003

End of Document

QUARTET: ABBAS MUST DISARM TERRORISTS

New York Sun (Archive)

March 2, 2005 Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 8

Length: 796 words

Byline: By BENNY AVNI, Special to the Sun

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS

Body

Even though it did not participate in yesterday's London summit, which was intended to strengthen the recently elected Palestinian Arab leader Mahmoud Abbas, Israel hoped the meeting would lead to stronger pressure on Syria and other terrorist elements, senior officials in Jerusalem say.

The conference, at which \$1.2 billion was pledged by donors to help the Palestinian Authority, also called on Mr. Abbas to disarm terror organizations. Mr. Abbas promised reforms in the Palestinian Authority to assure the donations would improve his people's lot.

Secretary of State Rice endorsed Israeli intelligence at the meeting that the foreign ministers of Russia, France, major Arab states, and Secretary-General Annan attended, that implicated Syria in last Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. Five Israelis were killed in the terror attack that was perceived in London also as an assault on peace moves in the region. "There is evidence that Islamic Jihad, headquartered in Syria, was in fact involved with the planning of those attacks in Tel Aviv," Ms. Rice told ABC News. "And so the Syrians have a lot to answer for."

Mr. Abbas said he had no evidence of Syria's involvement. But France, which has cooperated at the U.N. with Washington in pressuring Syria to pull out of Lebanon, indicated it might endorse a resolution based on the new intelligence, but "it has to be made public," U.N. Ambassador Jean Marc de la Sabliere told The New York Sun yesterday.

In Jerusalem, Ms. Rice's statement was seen as an endorsement of Israel's claim to have intercepted communications that established that orders and plans for the attack came from the Damascus headquarters of Islamic Jihad; Israeli officials called for the already intense international pressure on Syria to be increased.

"Syria is the weak link in a terror triangle, along with Iran and Hezbollah," a senior official in Prime Minister Sharon's office told the Sun, adding that Islamic Jihad was merely "an errand boy" in the grand terror scheme.

The official, who asked not to be named, explained that while oil-rich Iran supplies the funding and grand strategy for terrorists in the Palestinian Arab areas, and while Hezbollah organizes and executes terror attacks, Syria's role is that of a "land base." Goods, weapons, funds, and orders run from Iran through Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon and in the Palestinian Arab territories. Israel, he said, "has an interest in neutralizing Syria, which is now in the world's crosshairs, to break this crucial part of the triangle."

QUARTET: ABBAS MUST DISARM TERRORISTS

The conference was envisioned by the host, Prime Minister Blair, as a way to strengthen Mr. Abbas's hand in diplomatic matters, but the Friday bombing put new pressures on him regarding terrorism. Until now, Mr. Abbas has merely tried to reach a cease-fire with terrorist organizations. Now Israel is demanding he disarm them.

The demand was tacitly endorsed in London. A statement issued by the steering group known as "the Quartet", which includes America, Russia, the European Union, and the U.N., called on Mr. Abbas to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to trial, but also stressed "the need for further and sustained action by the Palestinian Authority to prevent acts of terrorism."

In yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Mr. Sharon vowed there would be no progress in the region "until the Palestinians take strong action to eliminate the terrorist organizations and their infrastructures in the Palestinian Authority areas."

"The London gathering was intended for, to paraphrase a movie title, Saving Private Mazen," his aide told the Sun. "Now everyone understands that this is impossible if terrorism continues."

Mr. Abbas called for widening the effort to reach a resolution on outstanding "final status" issues beyond America, expressing hope that yesterday's meeting would lead to "an international conference that would take place in accordance with the road map."

At the U.N., too, officials saw the London gathering as an opportunity to "reinvigorate" the role of the international steering group. "The Quartet remains ready to engage," its statement yesterday said. This was also Mr. Blair's intent - but not Jerusalem's.

"Israel has no interest to upgrade the role of the quartet," Education Minister Limor Livnat, who attended a U.N. conference on women's rights yesterday, told the Sun. "Foreign involvement is not necessarily helpful."

Instead, Israel hoped to engage Mr. Abbas's cooperation in implementing Mr. Sharon's "separation plan," initially envisioned as a unilateral measure. The Jerusalem official told the Sun that such cooperation could help shorten the time allotted for evacuating settlements in Gaza and the northern West Bank, so that it could be completed by September 1, and not the end of 2005, as previously scheduled.

Load-Date: March 2, 2005

Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East

Canberra Times (Australia)

October 8, 2003 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2003 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 458 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Tension in the Middle East was further heightened yesterday after an Israeli soldier and a Lebanese child were killed in firing across their border.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia made a cease-fire with Israel the top priority of his new government as his emergency cabinet prepared to hold its first session.

Responsibility for the deaths was not immediately clear, as Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas denied shooting an Israeli soldier on border patrol on Monday, and Israel said it had not fired into the area where Ali Nader Yassin was killed and his brother Ahmed, eight, was wounded in the head.

Lebanese police said an Israeli shell had hit the boys' home in the village of Houla, 5km from the border. Its target was apparently a Hezbollah anti-aircraft battery which had fired at Israeli helicopters violating Lebanese airspace.

The deaths ratcheted up tension in the region off the back of an Israeli air strike on a target close to the Syrian capital Damascus, which the Jewish state says was a training camp for Palestinian militants.

The attack on Syrian soil, which provoked widespread condemnation, came in response to a suicide bombing in the northern Israeli city of Haifa on Saturday which left 19 people dead as well as the female attacker.

Funerals for 12 of the victims of the Haifa attack took place yesterday.

Retired navy admiral Zeev Almog was due to be buried in Haifa along with his wife, son and two grandsons. And in the nearby kibbutz of Yagur, five members of the Zer-Aviv family, whose ages range from 14 months to 59, were also being laid to rest.

The latest crisis prompted Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to declare Mr Qureia the head of a nine-member cabinet late on Sunday in a decree which also ushered in a state of emergency. The cabinet was to hold its first meeting in the West Bank yesterday.

Asked about his top priorities ahead of the meeting, Mr Qureia said, "Trying to reach a mutual cease-fire with the Israeli side."

The outgoing speaker of Parliament also said he wanted "an inter-Palestinian dialogue more serious than anytime before in order to reach a common ground on the way of ending the present crisis".

Tension up as 2 killed in Mid-East

Sources close to Mr Qureia had said on Monday the Government would move against hardline factions such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad but Mr Qureia was also determined to avoid any descent into civil war in Palestinian ranks.

Israel has been reluctant to embrace appeals for a ceasefire, with a recent offer by Mr Arafat dismissed as a "honeytrap" by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesman.

The Government has said it would only talk with Mr Qureia if he was willing to dismantle the infrastructure of groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which was behind the Haifa attack.

_ AFP

Load-Date: December 31, 2003

End of Document

World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

July 20, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; World Report; Pg. C2; News; Crime; Brief

Length: 1393 words

Body

MIDEAST

BOMB EXPLOSION KILLS HEZBOLLAH OFFICIAL

BEIRUT, Lebanon - An explosion in a Muslim neighbourhood in southern Beirut killed a guerrilla who led operations against Israel.

Ghaleb Awali, 40, was "an official of the resistance," a Hezbollah spokesman said.

Al-Manar TV, run by Hezbollah, showed pictures of the burned-out car and said it blew up when Awali started the engine.

"The Zionist enemy is fully responsible for this brazen crime, which was an act of vengeance for the resistance's victories and steadfastness," Hezbollah said in a statement. Hezbollah generally refers to Israel as the "Zionist enemy" rather than by name.

Compiled from Star News Services

ARAFAT FORCED TO DEMOTE COUSIN AS CRISIS DEEPENS

GAZA - The political crisis engulfing the Palestinian Authority was poised to worsen Monday, after militant leaders vowed to increase demands for the removal of corrupt officials despite concessions from Yasser Arafat aimed at calming public anger.

In what was seen as a humiliating climbdown in the face of unprecedented internal unrest in the Gaza Strip, Arafat named a new security chief over the head of a cousin whose appointment fuelled a weekend of violence. Gunmen led crowds demanding anti-corruption reforms.

Arafat named Abdel-Razek al-Majaideh to the new post of overall director of security for the West Bank and Gaza, outranking Moussa Arafat.

GUNMAN SHOOT, KILLS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

JERUSALEM - A gunman shot and killed a district court judge in a Tel Aviv suburb late Monday, police said, and Israel's justice minister said it was the first such killing in Israel's history.

The 49-year-old judge, identified as Adi Azar, was in his car near his home in Ramat Hasharon when he was shot from close range by a man on a motorcycle, witnesses told police. The assailant escaped.

World Report

The motive for the killing was unclear. Azar did not try criminal cases. His main job was to assign cases to other judges.

PALESTINIAN MILITANT LEADER, TWO OTHERS INJURED IN ATTACK

JERUSALEM - Israeli missiles hit a house in a Gaza refugee camp on the beach Monday, wounding a militant Palestinian leader and two other people, a spokesman for a Palestinian group said.

A spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committee said the air strike was aimed at a house used by Abed Quka, the group's leader in northern Gaza.

He was wounded in the attack, but his condition was not known.

NINE KILLED, 60 WOUNDED IN DEADLY ATTACK

BAGHDAD - A fuel tanker rigged as a massive bomb hurtled toward a Baghdad police station and exploded Monday, killing nine people, wounding 60, and levelling a huge section of an industrial neighbourhood.

The suicide bombing was the latest in a string of deadly attacks on police, but civilians working nearby appeared to bear the brunt of the explosion.

Militants have used near-constant car bombs, sabotage, assassinations and kidnappings as weapons in their 15-month-old insurgency.

AFRICA

10 SUDANESE ARABS FACE AMPUTATIONS FOR ATTACKS

KHARTOUM, Sudan - A special court set up by the Sudanese government to end atrocities in the western Darfur region sentenced 10 Arab militiamen Monday to six years in prison and ordered each have a hand and a foot amputated for attacking and robbing villagers.

The Sudanese government has been under international pressure to end atrocities by militias known as the Janjaweed against black Africans. It apparently is using the courts to show it is fulfilling its pledge to bring law and order to the area.

The government has denied it backs the militias with helicopter gunships and vehicles in a campaign that has been equated with ethnic cleansing.

On Friday, Sudanese Foreign Minister Osman Ismail said anyone who violates human rights in Darfur "will face justice."

The sentences were the first handed down by the special court.

NIGERIA REVOKES 11-MONTH BAN ON POLIO VACCINE

KANO, Nigeria - The governor of a mostly Muslim state in Nigeria is "satisfied" UN-regulated vaccines are safe despite persistent rumours they are part of an American plot to make girls infertile.

Gov. Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano state revoked an 11-month ban on polio vaccinations Monday, calling for polio vaccinations to begin soon.

Since Kano suspended vaccinations in August last year, the ban has set back a 15-year global campaign to eliminate the disease by 2005.

EUROPE

MINER UNCOVERS 182-CARAT DIAMOND

World Report

CONAKRY, Guinea - There's lucky: Finding a diamond when you're a young miner sweating it out in the west African forests of Guinea. And there's too lucky: Finding a 182-carat stone, that everyone -- starting with the government of Guinea -- wants a piece of.

Result: The stone -- four times the size of the famous Hope diamond -- was tucked away Monday deep in the vaults of Guinea's central bank.

The Guinea gem is 10 cm by three cm high -- roughly the size and shape of your average computer mouse. The Hope diamond is 45.52 carats.

CHIRAC SAYS SHARON NOT WELCOME IN FRANCE

PARIS - President Jacques Chirac said Monday that the Israeli leader would not be welcome here until he gave a satisfactory explanation for saying Jews should go to Israel to escape anti-Semitism in France.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's remarks Saturday produced a storm of rebuke after he said French Jews were under threat by the country's much larger Muslim community and should leave.

"A visit by the Israeli prime minister to Paris ... won't be looked at closely until the requested explanation is provided," a presidential source said on condition of anonymity.

Sharon's remarks -- in which he said France was host to "the wildest anti-Semitism" -- were misunderstood, said Jacques Revah.

The Foreign Ministry earlier issued a terse statement calling Sharon's remarks "unacceptable."

BISHOPS PLANS TO DIVIDE CHURCH INTO HIS AND HERS

LONDON - Proposals to divide the Church of England into two -- one part with female clergy and one without -- are being discussed by church leaders to avert an exodus of traditionalists when women become bishops.

The archbishop of York, David Hope, has told friends he believes such a scheme, though highly controversial, is probably the only way to hold the church together if it decides to consecrate women.

He has privately won support from the archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, who agrees the options facing the church are limited.

BOMB EXPLODES IN MAYOR'S WINE CELLAR

AJACCIO, Corsica - A bomb exploded Monday in the wine cellar of a centre-right mayor in southwest Corsica, believed to be the latest separatist violence in this French Mediterranean island, police said.

The explosive device went off about 10:30 p.m. local time at a vineyard owned by Jacques Bianchetti, mayor of the town of Cauro and a member of President Jacques Chirac's Union for a Popular Movement party.

RUSSIA

'WE HAVE PROOF THAT LENIN DIED OF SYPHILIS:' DOCTORS

MOSCOW - For decades it was no more than a whispered rumour in the corridors of Soviet medicine but now a team of doctors claim to have proved that Lenin, communism's greatest icon, died of syphilis.

Israeli doctors, writing in the European Journal of Neurology, say they used medical records pieced together from archives released after the fall of communism to reconstruct the first Soviet leader's illness and death.

The team says Lenin's syphilis caused brain damage and later dementia in the last two years of his life.

MAGAZINE EMPLOYEE STABBED, BEATEN AND KILLED

World Report

MOSCOW - An Armenian magazine employee died after being stabbed and beaten in Moscow, the magazine's chief said Monday.

The discovery of Pail Peloyan's body came eight days after the killing of American Paul Klebnikov, editor of Forbes magazine's Russian edition, and raised additional concerns about journalists' safety in Russia.

Klebnikov reportedly had been looking into the 1995 killing of a prominent TV journalist and was interested in doing a series of articles about journalist murders.

NORTH AMERICA

GIRL DIES AFTER HAIR CAUGHT IN POOL'S FILTER SYSTEM

ELK GROVE, Calif. - A baby sitter did all she could do in an attempt to free a drowning 8-year-old girl whose hair had become caught in a swimming pool's filter system.

The baby sitter was watching the young girl swim when her shoulder-length hair became stuck. The girl was finally freed when someone cut her hair with a knife. CPR efforts failed.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press photo; WHAT YOU WON'T DO FOR A GODDESS: An Indonesian Hindu priest walks barefoot on hot coals during Theemithi (fire-walking) ritual held as a part of Tamil Hindu Culture Festival in Deli Serdang, North Sumatera, Indonesia. Theemithi ceremony is held in honour of the Goddess Draupadi, heroine of the epic poem Mahabharata.

Load-Date: July 20, 2004

Foreign Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

September 28, 2002 Saturday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. c7

Length: 491 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Doctors: Italian has mad cow disease

A 25-year-old woman has been confirmed as Italy's first victim of the human form of mad cow disease, according to research published Friday.

The woman, who lives in Sicily, was hospitalized in November after suffering for six months with pain in her back and legs, a progressive disturbance in her walking and unpleasant sensations when her skin was touched, said the report in The Lancet medical journal.

Italian health authorities said in February that the suspected diagnosis was the fatal brain-wasting condition variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Experts believe variant CJD comes from eating products from cows infected with mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Variant CJD has killed more than 100 people since emerging in England in the mid-1990s. Most of those deaths have been in Britain.

The woman has never traveled to Britain or any other country with reported cases of mad cow disease. On Friday, Italy's Health Ministry reported that 73 cows have tested positive for the disease.

Israel: Lebanese plan to thwart U.S. strike on Iraq

JERUSALEM - Iran has been supplying Lebanese guerrillas with thousands of missiles for an attack on Israel that would apparently be timed to disrupt a possible U.S. strike on Iraq, a senior Israeli official said Friday.

The missiles, as well as several hundred Iranian Revolutionary Guards, have reached the Hezbollah militia unhindered through Syrian airports and roads, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon.

The Lebanese government dismissed the Israeli reports as propaganda aimed at discrediting Lebanon. Residents on the Lebanese side of the border said they've seen no evidence that Hezbollah is preparing for war, and a Western diplomat said there were no signs the guerrilla group was stockpiling weapons.

Morocco picks parliament

Foreign Briefs

RABAT, Morocco - Moroccans voted Friday in what the government promised would be the country's first free and fair elections, emerging from polling booths with their thumbs dyed purple to prevent them voting twice.

The legislative vote is the first under King Mohammed VI and is an important step in the reform process he launched after the 1999 death of his father, Hassan II. But while Mohammed has relaxed censorship and let political exiles return, criticism of the king remains taboo. Past elections were considered rigged and corrupt.

A host of problems await the winning lawmakers, who for the first time were to include at least 30 women. Among the challenges: convincing poor, unemployed and disenchanted Moroccans that parliament can help improve lives.

A dizzying 26 parties, nearly a dozen of them less than two years old, were contesting the election for the Chamber of Representatives, parliament's lower house. They included an Islamic fundamentalist party that expected to improve on the 14 seats it held in the previous 325-seat parliament.

Load-Date: October 6, 2002

End of Document

Horrific death toll that shocked a nation

THE JOURNAL (Newcastle, UK)

August 22, 2003, Friday

Edition 1

Copyright 2003 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd

Section: NEWS,

Length: 486 words

Byline: By Huw Lewis, The Journal

Body

The bomb which ripped through the AMIA Jewish Community Centre in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, remains the most deadly terrorist attack in Argentina's history.

The investigation into it has spanned the world and led to the door of the nation's then President accused of taking part in a cover-up but no-one has ever been put on trial for the outrage.

The huge force of the bomb driven to the community centre in a van damaged buildings and shattered windows across the Argentine capital's financial district.

The seven-storey modern building was reduced to rubble by the blast 85 people were killed and up to 200 more injured.

The dead included many women and children, the families of Israeli diplomats and businessmen who worked in the surrounding area. Members of the clergy at a church across the street and people who were unlucky enough to be passing at the time were also killed. There had been no warning.

The attack came the same year other Jewish targets outside Israel including the country's London embassy were bombed.

The Palestinian terror organisation Hezbollah was quickly blamed for the atrocity, with Iranian Government agents accused of helping the terrorists.

Last year US newspaper the New York Times claimed Argentina's president at the time, Carlos Menem, had been paid \$ 10m by Iran to help the terrorists escape justice.

Menem and Iran have both denied the allegation, but the claim sparked a fresh investigation.

That led, last week, to Argentine federal judge Juan Jose Galeano asking Interpol to arrest eight Iranian officials known to have been in the country at the time.

They included Hadi Soleimanpour, in 1994 Iran's ambassador to Argentina, whose whereabouts were listed as unknown but who was thought to be in Britain.

Horrific death toll that shocked a nation

That was the trigger for Interpol to send details of the warrants to Scotland Yard, who traced Soleimanpour to Durham.

The warrants were issued following the capture and extradition of five other diplomats earlier this year.

Iran which has always denied involvement had withdrawn Soleimanpour from Argentina in protest at being implicated in 1994.

Menem himself had at first blamed an Iranian-backed Hezbollah group for the bombing.

Israel meanwhile claimed the terror group was using a lawless area on the borders of Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil as a base for terrorist activities, running training camps at farms.

But the Iran lead was bogged down amid a slow investigation by the Argentinian authorities, plagued by disappearing witnesses and unexplained delays.

In June this year, newly-elected President Nestor Kirchner ordered the release of secret files of the intelligence services related to the bombing calling the previous investigation a "national disgrace."

Argentina's 300,000 Jewish community is the biggest in Latin America and the seventh largest in the world. Two years before the AMIA attack, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed, killing 29.

Load-Date: August 22, 2003

End of Document

New town, old scars

The Weekend Australian

April 13, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 26

Length: 798 words

Body

Beirut is looking and feeling like its old self, writes Catherine Taylor, but violence is always just a heartbeat away

WHEN Lebanon's civil war ended in 1990, the Beirut suburb of Achrafieh was a ghost town. None but snipers and militia had walked its streets for so long that grass covered the roads and saplings sprouted from the balconies of abandoned apartment blocks.

During the 15-year war, which began 27 years ago today, the area served as a demarcation line between Beirut's Christian east and Muslim west.

The damage is still shocking -- tattered remains of grand colonial buildings stand as a testament to the war's horrors -- but the past decade has brought a revolution of a different kind.

MATP

Families have returned and rebuilt their homes into stunning examples of period architecture. Achrafieh is one of the hippest and most expensive sectors of Beirut, the heart of the city's club and bar scene and a magnet for antiques dealers and art galleries.

In many ways Lebanon is back to its old self, the Paris of the Middle East, where one can ski in the morning and swim in the afternoon. Expatriates are returning to join the peacetime rebirth, dine in swank restaurants, drink fine Lebanese wine and spend their weekends hiking through the same ancient cedar forests where the Romans used to build temples and boats.

On the surface, tension between the faiths is undetectable. Muslim women in hijab window shop beside Christians in slinky Western fashions, while the call to prayer and Sunday church bells often harmonise in a metaphor for tolerance.

But, then, Lebanon's war was never just about a religious divide. The 3.3 million people, from 17 religious sects, are packed into a tiny nation. At one time or another the Christians fought each other, as did the Muslims.

The end of the war brought no resolution to these grievances -- warring factions more or less just decided to stop. Today, political differences are fought out in parliament rather than on the street with guns.

Yet war is a backdrop to Lebanese life. Everyone over the age of 11 experienced the civil war and the 22-year Israeli occupation of a wide arc of land in southern Lebanon ended less than two years ago.

New town, old scars

From time to time, echoes of past violence lurch back into the news. Last month a high-rise building collapsed, a reminder that, although civil war may be over, the city's battered infrastructure continues to threaten the population.

In January, notorious Christian warlord Elie Hobeika was killed by a car bomb, just days after announcing he had information linking Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to the 1982 massacre of 1700 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Lebanon hosts 370,000 Palestinians, packed into squalid camps around the country. The Government is firm in denying them citizenship -- a policy designed in part to support Palestinian demands for the right of return -- but the Lebanese are also worried that if they accept the mostly Muslim refugees, the constitutional power-sharing agreement between Christians and Muslims will be tipped further off balance.

Yet the Lebanese are strong supporters of Palestinians. In the past two weeks there have been almost daily demonstrations against Israel's West Bank military offensive.

The Lebanese militia group Hezbollah has gone further, stepping up attacks on Israel from the disputed Shebaa Farms -- a pocket of land claimed by Lebanon but captured by Israel in 1967.

Lebanese are grateful to Hezbollah for evicting Israel from their land in 2000 but few are so willing to back them this time, fearing a new Middle East war on their doorstep.

"We want peace," says Khaled, 44, a taxi driver and father of three. "Many people believe that if the situation escalates now we will continue to fight new fires under the ashes of the old. It is time to put the fire out forever."

Regional conflict regularly threatens to spill into Lebanon, where Syria is the behind-the-scenes power broker. This time last year, tensions between pro and anti-Syrian groups nearly erupted and Israel bombed Syrian targets in Lebanon in retaliation for Syrian-backed Hezbollah raids.

This uncertainty has crippled the economy, which Western diplomats say is "teetering on the brink of an implosion". University graduates face unemployment or low-paying jobs. Many prefer to join family overseas, creating a brain drain.

But, to walk through the streets of Beirut now, it is hard to believe so much tension lies below the surface. As they have done for generations, the Lebanese push thoughts of war into the back of their minds and head out to party. "What people don't understand is that this uncertainty is not new to us," says Amal, 24. "There could be bombs falling in the south today, but I will still be out this weekend having a good time."

Load-Date: April 12, 2002

DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

November 25, 2005 Friday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A16

Length: 497 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Israel will return bodies of guerrillas

Israel agreed Thursday to return the remains of three Hezbollah guerrillas killed this week in border clashes, after Lebanon said such a move was vital to restoring calm to the area.

Four guerrillas were killed and 11 Israeli soldiers were wounded in fighting Monday on the south Lebanon border. Israeli warplanes and artillery bombarded Hezbollah positions, and the guerrillas fired missiles at Israeli military outposts.

ITALY

U.S. will close nuclear sub base

The United States intends to close a Navy base in the Mediterranean that maintains nuclear submarines, a Navy spokesman confirmed Thursday.

The 33-year-old naval base at La Maddalena, on an island off the coast of Sardinia, will close, said the spokesman, Cmdr. Mark McDonald of the 6th Fleet. "We're adjusting our forces to meet our current and future security needs," he said.

Italy's Defense Ministry announced the base closing this week, after the defense minister, Antonio Martino, met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Washington.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

Volcanic eruption dumps ash on city

A volcano erupted Thursday in southwestern Colombia, spewing smoke and ash.

Police and emergency officials were on high alert after the 14,110-foot Galeras volcano became active at dawn and dumped heaps of ash on the city of Pasto, 12 miles away.

DIGEST

"It was a brief eruption of ash for 30 minutes that was not preceded by a temblor inside the volcano," said Marta Lucia Calvache of Colombia's Volcanology Institute. He said further eruptions were possible.

LONDON

England relaxes law on hours for bars

The first day of relaxed drinking laws in England and Wales began quietly Thursday.

Police forces around the country reported no untoward incidents as some establishments took advantage of a law that permits them to apply for opening hours of their choice -- up to 24 hours a day.

The government hopes the change in laws introduced during World War I will stop the flood of drunks onto city streets just

after the traditional 11 p.m. closing time.

TOKYO

Panel suggests letting women ascend throne

A panel on Japan's imperial succession formally recommended Thursday that women be allowed to ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne, a change that could spare the royal family a looming succession crisis.

The panel's final report to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi calls for revising Japanese law to give a ruler's first-born child of either sex the right to head Japan's hereditary monarchy.

Japan's imperial family hasn't produced a male heir for 40 years, and Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako's only child is a girl, 3-year-old Aiko.

SANTIAGO, CHILE

Former dictator faces human rights charges

Former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet was indicted on human rights charges Thursday and placed under house arrest.

Judge Victor Montiglio charged Pinochet in connection with the kidnapping and disappearance of seven dissidents in the early years of his 1973-90 dictatorship, his office said.

Load-Date: November 26, 2005

WORLD IN BRIEF

The Evening Standard (London)

November 23, 2005 Wednesday

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London Evening Standard

Section: A; Pg. 16

Length: 475 words

Body

ITV pulls Elaine out of jungle over risk of more seizures FORMER EastEnder Elaine Lordan said she was "gutted" after becoming the first contestant to leave I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here! The actress had been eager to stay on the reality TV show, despite twice collapsing in the jungle and spending the past two days in hospital.

Doctors have said she is "in good health", but ITV has decided it is too risky to let her go back. Lordan, 39, who has a history of alcoholism, said she did not know what had caused the seizure in the first few hours.

Two die in Taliban blast A US soldier and an Afghan interpreter have been killed by a roadside bomb in the latest spate of violence involving Taliban fighters.

The two were in a convoy resupplying US-led forces targeting militants in the central province of Uruzgan. The soldier's death brings the number of US casualties in Afghanistan this year to nearly 60, the worst period since the Taliban were deposed in 2001.

Israeli war of words in Beirut ISRAELI planes dropped leaflets over Beirut today, denouncing militant Shi'ite Muslim **Hezbollah** guerrillas two days after some of the worst border clashes in Lebanon in years. The message included: "Who wishes the return of the destruction? Who is the tool in the hand of his Syrian and Iranian masters?" And in bold type it added: "**Hezbollah** is causing enormous harm to Lebanon."

Chinese flee waterless city RESIDENTS of a huge Chinese city that has had its water supply cut off have jammed the airport and railway stations in a bid to escape. Taps in Harbin, home to nine million people, were shut off yesterday after an explosion at a chemical plant by the Songhua River, which supplies the city. Officials say the water should be back on in four days, but many have chosen to leave.

Weighty problem for French THE myth of the svelte, healthy Frenchwoman has been exploded by a survey which reveals that more than a third are overweight. Many drink too much, with one in 30 consuming enough to be classed as an alcoholic, the survey of 21,000 **women** by the state-run national statistics institute revealed. And 56per cent are thought to be at serious risk

WORLD IN BRIEF

from overeating, smoking or drinking.

Suicide bomber kills 21 A SUICIDE car bomber killed 21 people about half of them police - and wounded 24 after insurgents in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk lured them by shooting an officer.

Meanwhile, the American military death toll in Iraq rose to 2,100 when a soldier was killed by a roadside bomb near Habaniyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad.

FAKE FLIER LANDS IN JAIL

An Australian man who collected 17.6 million frequent flier points without getting on a plane was jailed for six months today after pleading guilty to fraud. A court in Victoria heard that Austin Perrott, 45, collected points from nine frequent flier schemes while working for Singapore Airlines.

Load-Date: November 23, 2005

End of Document

**EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE;
OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 30, 2004 Saturday

SOONER EDITION Correction Appended

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: TRI-STATE,

Length: 1138 words

Byline: MILAN SIMONICH, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Body

One of the nation's nastiest campaigns has divided a quiet corner of Appalachia, a place usually immune from political venom thanks to its neighborly ways.

This year is different because Terry Anderson, one of the region's most storied residents, is running for state Senate in southeastern Ohio.

Anderson, 57, a former foreign correspondent for The Associated Press, became famous after Shiite Hezbollah terrorists kidnapped him and held him hostage in Lebanon for almost seven years.

To counter Anderson's celebrity and to try to hang onto her seat, Republican Sen. Joy Padgett has accused him of anti-American behavior. Her specific charge, ironically enough, is that Anderson is soft on terrorists.

Padgett, also 57, sent out campaign mailings this month showing Anderson with a Hezbollah terrorist leader. She called Anderson "part of the 'Blame America' crowd" that is sympathetic to Mideast thugs intent on hurting Americans.

To support her claim, she mentioned a comment Anderson made during a seminar at Ohio University soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Anderson, then a university professor, asked students whether U.S. policies might have ignited hatred in the Arab world. His comment, printed in the campus newspaper three years ago, has become a centerpiece of Padgett's attacks on him.

Her campaign flier suggests that only a man out of touch with Ohio values would mingle with a terrorist and question U.S. foreign policy.

Missing from Padgett's advertisement was any mention that the terrorist pictured with Anderson was the secretary general of Hezbollah, the group that abducted him in 1985. Anderson confronted and interviewed the terrorist leader for a television documentary years after he was freed.

"He and his brothers were the ones who kidnapped me, chained me, blindfolded me and beat me," Anderson said. "My political opponent uses a picture of that interview to try to win an election."

EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE; OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST

After complaining that Padgett will do or say anything, Anderson walked out of a debate with her in Marietta. He told the League of Women Voters he would not stand on the same stage with her.

Since then, Anderson has refused to appear with Padgett. He said he will never speak to her again.

"What she did is cheap crap," Anderson said. "If she wanted to know what I think of terrorists, all she had to do is ask me. I don't like them. I've seen the evil they do."

Padgett did not respond directly to requests for an interview.

Instead, Scott Borgemenke, the strategist for Republican Senate candidates in Ohio, returned messages left for her. Borgemenke said the campaign attacks on Anderson are designed to show voters that he is "a liberal university professor" whose values do not match those of voters in Ohio's 20th Senate District.

Borgemenke's other objective is to paint Anderson as a carpetbagger.

"He voted in only two of 12 possible elections before he became a candidate," Borgemenke said. "He came in from New York, looking to set up in a congressional district where he could run. This office would be a stepping-stone for him, and I don't think he's denied that."

Anderson, though, said he has no interest in higher office.

"If he thinks I'm getting political ambitions at 57, he's crazy. I don't need a political career. I'm running for the state Senate because I think I can help people and do some good."

Until this election, Padgett had the image of a kind and courteous elementary schoolteacher -- her former profession.

"I've seen her throughout her career, and she was always this nice, smiling lady at banquets," said Matt Hinds, 36, a dairy farmer from West Lafayette. "Then, all at once came all this ugliness."

Hinds, formerly a Republican, switched to the Democratic Party and said he will vote for Anderson on Tuesday.

Asked what he liked about Anderson, Hinds said: "His story. He suffered."

Anderson, a Marine for six years during the Vietnam era, studied journalism after the war. He became the AP's chief Mideast correspondent in 1983.

Hezbollah members linked to Iran kidnapped Anderson from a street corner in Beirut, Lebanon, on March 16, 1985. They imprisoned him until Dec. 4, 1991.

Anderson is one of Appalachia's multimillionaires, mostly because of his ordeal at the hands of the Iranian operatives who kidnapped him.

He won a judgment of more than \$340 million against Iran for his years in captivity. Later, he collected a considerably smaller but unspecified amount after Congress approved legislation allowing victims of terrorism to receive damages from Iranian assets frozen in the United States.

Though wealthy, Anderson cannot spend lavishly to win this election.

Ohio law restricts candidates from spending more than \$50,000 of their own money in one campaign. Anderson said he expects Republicans to pour more than \$1 million into Padgett's campaign, at least double what he will raise.

The nine-county Senate district has a history of conservatism. A Democrat has not won it since 1972.

EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE; OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST

Brian Davis, a professor of political science at Ohio University in Athens, said Anderson is the candidate who could break the streak.

"He brings star power to the race," Davis said. "Usually a Republican would win fairly overwhelmingly."

Borgemenke, the Republican strategist, agreed that Anderson is formidable.

"He's a good orator, and he's got a pretty interesting story," he said.

Borgemenke calls the Anderson-Padgett race the most competitive of Ohio's Senate elections. Overall, Republicans control the state Senate 22-11.

Ohio has strict term limits of eight years for state House and Senate members. Even so, Padgett's critics say she has managed to create a long political career for herself.

She formerly served as a state representative. During her eighth and final year in office, she resigned so Gov. Bob Taft could appoint her director of his Office of Appalachia, a job-creation agency. She worked there for four years.

Ohio's Republican senators appointed her in January to the 20th District Senate seat. The senator who had represented the region resigned, also to take a job in state government.

Anderson said his focus is creating jobs and improving education and health care. He calls Padgett's record undistinguished, and tells voters he can do better.

"This is one of the poorest parts of the country," Anderson said. "We're losing jobs, even though we shouldn't be, and our educational system is a mess" because of unequal funding of public school districts.

His in-house polling showed him ahead, but that was three weeks ago, before Padgett's barrage of ads about terrorism.

Padgett hopes that her depiction of Anderson as a soft liberal will negate the interest he stirs in voters. For his part, Anderson expects most people to be put off by Padgett's tactics.

"I think what she did was a serious mistake, but we'll find out on Tuesday," he said.

Notes

Milan Simonich can be reached at msimonich@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1956.

Correction

A caption yesterday about former hostage Terry Anderson gave incorrect information about when the photo was taken. It was from a 1998 news conference, not during his Ohio Senate campaign.

Correction-Date: October 31, 2004

Graphic

PHOTO: Former U.S. hostage Terry Anderson answers reporters' questions at a 1998 news conference.

EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE; OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST

Load-Date: November 13, 2004

End of Document

EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 30, 2004 Saturday

REGION EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: LOCAL,

Length: 1138 words

Byline: Milan Simonich Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Body

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He won a judgment of more than \$340 million against Iran for his years in captivity. Later, he collected a considerably smaller but unspecified amount after Congress approved legislation allowing victims of terrorism to receive damages from Iranian assets frozen in the United States.

Though wealthy, Anderson cannot spend lavishly to win this election.

Ohio law restricts candidates from spending more than \$50,000 of their own money in one campaign. Anderson said he expects Republicans to pour more than \$1 million into Padgett's campaign, at least double what he will raise.

The nine-county Senate district has a history of conservatism. A Democrat has not won it since 1972.

EX-HOSTAGE TAKES HEAT FROM GOP FOE OHIO CAMPAIGN ONE OF NATION'S NASTIEST

Brian Davis, a professor of political science at Ohio University in Athens, said Anderson is the candidate who could break the streak.

"He brings star power to the race," Davis said. "Usually a Republican would win fairly overwhelmingly."

Borgemenke, the Republican strategist, agreed that Anderson is formidable.

"He's a good orator, and he's got a pretty interesting story," he said.

Borgemenke calls the Anderson-Padgett race the most competitive of Ohio's Senate elections. Overall, Republicans control the state Senate 22-11.

Ohio has strict term limits of eight years for state House and Senate members. Even so, Padgett's critics say she has managed to create a long political career for herself.

She formerly served as a state representative. During her eighth and final year in office, she resigned so Gov. Bob Taft could appoint her director of his Office of Appalachia, a job-creation agency. She worked there for four years.

Ohio's Republican senators appointed her in January to the 20th District Senate seat. The senator who had represented the region resigned, also to take a job in state government.

Anderson said his focus is creating jobs and improving education and health care. He calls Padgett's record undistinguished, and tells voters he can do better.

"This is one of the poorest parts of the country," Anderson said. "We're losing jobs, even though we shouldn't be, and our educational system is a mess" because of unequal funding of public school districts.

His in-house polling showed him ahead, but that was three weeks ago, before Padgett's barrage of ads about terrorism.

Padgett hopes that her depiction of Anderson as a soft liberal will negate the interest he stirs in voters. For his part, Anderson expects most people to be put off by Padgett's tactics.

"I think what she did was a serious mistake, but we'll find out on Tuesday," he said.

Notes

Milan Simonich can be reached at msimonich@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1956.

Graphic

Former U.S. hostage Terry Anderson answers reporters' questions at a news conference during the campaign.

Load-Date: October 30, 2004

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
May 18, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A20

Length: 801 words

Byline: TAMER ZIARA

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza yesterday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the camp hours later, killing seven people.

Early today, Palestinian security officials said armoured bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began levelling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

AP

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armoured vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

Broadening the Israeli buffer zone means bulldozing rows of houses in Rafah, leaving Palestinian refugees who fled during the 1948 Middle East war homeless again.

In the first Israeli air strike, a helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

Shortly before dawn Tuesday, a second Israeli helicopter fired another missile in the camp, killing four people and wounding 17, witnesses said. The air strike, near a mosque, came as people were gathering for morning prayers, they said.

The Israeli military said the target was armed Palestinians in the camp.

Frantic residents loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighbouring town, also named Rafah. The UN Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food.

"Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want because we all are brothers," he said.

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah, out of a population of 90,000, have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of about 250 metres, almost double its current size in some places.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said yesterday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of that their name not be published, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by Hezbollah and Hamas abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. Hezbollah is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling. Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

Yesterday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

Rice "said that she and President (George W.) Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

Graphic

Color Photo: MOHAMMED SALEM, REUTERS; A Palestinian man rests in the street next to destroyed houses at the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Panicked Palestinians fled their homes as Israeli forces massed for threatened assault, despite the Palestinian PM's appeal to the White House to intervene.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

Gaza refugee camp bulldozed: Seven killed. Thousands flee as army razes homes

End of Document

Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 18, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a5

Length: 896 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: RAFAH, Gaza Strip

Body

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The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces. Israel Radio has reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Frantic residents on Monday loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

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The Arab Group called on members to take "necessary measures" against Israel for violating international law.

Palestinian militants planted bombs around Rafah, a residents said. A 23-year-old Palestinian was killed early Tuesday when a bomb he was assembling exploded, they said.

Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of 250 yards, almost double its current size.

in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

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On Monday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

"She (Rice) said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation.

"We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

Palestinian legislator Mohammed Hijazi said hundreds of families have left the camp since the exodus began Sunday; local officials put the number of evacuees at more than 2,000. UNRWA said Israel has demolished or damaged nearly 2,000 houses in Rafah since 2000.

Amr Moussa, Arab League secretary-general, condemned the destruction and charged that Israel's leaders are wrecking chances for peace. "Who would sit down with these people?" he asked.

Israelis surround refugee camp; 3 Palestinians are killed during missile strikes

Graphic

AP Photo

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

End of Document

A whiff of Arabic culture on Cote Vertu

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 4, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; On the Bus; Pg. A4; Column

Length: 816 words

Byline: HARVEY SHEPHERD

Body

A man of perhaps 35 took occasional thoughtful puffs on the mouthpiece of the water pipe on the floor beside him as he watched the large television screen in the corner of the small cafe.

The Al Jazeera TV station in Qatar was broadcasting a lengthy interview in Arabic with Sheikh Hassan Nasrollah, general secretary of the Lebanese militant Islamic group Hezbollah.

Five men sat around another of the eight small tables in the cafe, as two of them enjoyed a game of backgammon. Another, wearing a prominent cross on a chain around his neck, took periodic puffs on another water pipe.

The Gazette

At another table, a portly man with a slightly ragged mustache sipped Turkish coffee. That was me, shortly after I had stepped off a No. 121 Sauve/Cote Vertu bus at the corner of Cote Vertu Rd. and Montpellier Blvd. in St. Laurent, a few blocks west of the Montpellier commuter-train station, and entered Alexander Mandouh's Cafe Cocktail.

I was about 4 kilometres from the western terminus of the line, at the northwest corner of the Place Vertu shopping centre. And about 8 kilometres from the eastern terminus, which is in front of Our Lady of Pompei Church, a modernistic building where masses have been offered, primarily in Italian, since 1967 at Sauve St. and St. Michel Blvd. in the southeastern corner of the Ahuntsic district.

The bus runs frequently and takes about 52 minutes to make the 12-kilometre run along Cote Vertu and Sauve, which are continuations of each other. The 121 connects with the metro stations of those names and leaves its Cote Vertu-Sauve axis only to loop around at the ends.

Mandouh told me his cafe, in the basement of a duplex, has catered for about 10 years to the many people of Egyptian, Lebanese and other Arab origins who live in the surrounding area.

Water pipes are popular in Egypt, where he comes from, Mandouh said.

The tobacco, sometimes fruit-flavoured, sits in a bowl a little like a pipe bowl but with the stem at the bottom, perched atop the water pipe, about a metre from the floor. Lumps of burning charcoal on top of the tobacco keep it lit.

The smoker draws on a mouthpiece at the end of a long flexible tube that enters the water pipe toward the bottom, drawing the smoke through water in the body of the pipe. This cools the smoke and, at least in Mandouh's view, removes a lot of the harmful substances.

A whiff of Arabic culture on Cote Vertu

It was the man watching the satellite-transmitted television broadcast, by the way, who told me the interview was with a leader of Hezbollah. I puzzled out later, surfing the Web, that it was Nasrollah, with his characteristic black turban, neat beard and traditional Arab garb. The interview, or conversation, was with a man in a business suit, whose own comments were lengthy and sometimes more fervent than those of Nasrollah.

I had no idea what was being said, of course, although I thought I might have recognized the words "Israel" and "Arafat." The Hezbollah leader seemed about as emotional as Joe Clark discussing Senate reform.

I left the Cafe Cocktail and decided to check out the Cafe Restaurant Jounieh a block or so away.

There, one of my prejudices was shattered. I had tended to think of the water pipe as a male pleasure, but there were five or six attractive young women, who would not have looked out of place in a Crescent or St. Denis St. bistro, sitting at a table with a young man and enjoying a water pipe and a good deal of hilarity.

The only other customer was Nabil Ayas, an industrial designer, who was enjoying his lunch, built around a soup he particularly likes, while watching a vintage black-and-white musical comedy on the TV, tuned by satellite to an Egyptian station.

It was a pity it was not subtitled in English, he said, because the lyrics of the songs were quite profound.

"This is a good place," said Ayas, who often takes the 121 to and from the restaurant. "They cook as if for their family, or as a person would cook for their friends.

"Christian or Muslim is welcome here, like the lion and the rabbit drinking at the same watering place."

On summer evenings, he said, the place is full, with people using part of the front parking area as a terrace. He celebrated his most recent birthday there.

Amir Tadros, the owner, said he and his wife, Madeleine, began operating the restaurant as a cafe about four years ago and have been serving meals for about three.

Like Mandouh, he thinks water pipes are less of a health hazard than cigarettes. He showed me disposable plastic tips he supplies to help keep things hygienic, especially when several people are sharing a pipe.

"This is the only Egyptian cuisine in Montreal," he said, explaining that Egyptian cuisine is like Lebanese, only just a little better.

"All the meals we do here, the mothers do them for their sons in Egypt."

- Harvey Shepherd's E-mail address is hshepherd@thegazette.southam.ca.

Graphic

Map:

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

Arabic channels bring the war back home

The Australian

June 26, 2003 Thursday NSW Country Edition

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-COLUMN- MEDIA; Pg. B07

Length: 878 words

Byline: Patricia Karvelas

Body

THE images are bloody and brutal. Palestinian children throw rocks at Israeli tanks, Israeli soldiers shoot back. Innocent people die. Every night, thousands of Muslims across Australia are tuning into satellite television channels from the Middle East. The images they see are gruesome and confronting. Palestinians are killed by Israelis, children scream and women wail.

In Australia, experts say the most confronting channels remain Al-Jazeera and the lesser know but increasingly popular Al-Manar.

MATP

But while Al-Jazeera has been criticised for some anti-Western bias, Al-Manar is blatant about its agenda. It is the mouthpiece of the Hezbollah party in Lebanon, an organisation that has been placed on Australia's list of terror groups.

Hezbollah makes an effort to disseminate its views worldwide. In Australia, it is particularly popular.

Al-Manar is the second most popular Arabic TV channel out of 10 available in Australia via subscription, says a saleswoman for its Sydney-based distributor, TARBS World TV. Al-Manar's website says the Beirut-based channel provides news and current affairs in support of the oppressed Palestinian people. "Al-Manar is the first Arab establishment to stage an effective psychological warfare against the Zionist enemy," the website says.

Yael Adler, vice president of programming and production at TARBS World TV, says the images broadcast on Al-Manar are just like the images broadcast on any other news service. The crucial difference is that they come from a Palestinian perspective, she says. "We've never really seen anything that would justify removing it. It's even available in the [United] States," she says.

Adler rejects the suggestion that Al-Manar incites violence and recruits suicide bombers: "There's a lot of people who say television triggers violence in general. Are you going to ban Terminator?"

Dr Michael McKinley, senior lecturer in global politics at the Australian National University, says while channels such as Al-Manar can influence the actions of Muslims in Australia, there is no evidence that they create terrorists.

McKinley blames a lack of "sensible" and "sensitive" reporting from the local Australian media for the popularity of extremist TV channels.

Arabic channels bring the war back home

He says it's hard to know what turns somebody from being sympathetic to a cause to becoming a terrorist. "You're left with that space between advocating the overthrow of Israel and strapping explosives on your back," he says.

He says a lot of what is broadcast in the mainstream news media is regarded by Australian Muslims as propaganda.

But Dr Colin Rubenstein, executive director of the Australia Israeli Jewish Affairs Council, says it is outrageous that in Australia, people can view a channel that is run by a terrorist organisation. "It's a proscribed organisation in Australia, a terrorist organisation of global reach," he says. "There's no doubt that they are spreading a terrorist ideology on the channel. It's totally inconsistent with the criminal code banning Hezbollah that people can view this channel here," he says.

Rubenstein is particularly outraged by the channel's Internet site, which gives contact details for donations to the resistance movement.

He is also concerned that the channel glorifies suicide bombings. "Words are bullets and the images are inflammatory. They disseminate the ideology of hatred and it is extremely damaging ... It is the precursor of terrorism," he says.

Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at ANU, says there has been evidence of people seeing injustices on television and then acting unilaterally. "They will see a program that underlines injustices to the Palestinians and they might take it upon themselves to demonstrate their concerns by an act of violence," Williams says. "I don't think one should constrain objective reporting, and Al-Jazeera does this, but if they are straight-out propaganda I think it's highly undesirable."

But Islamic Council of Victoria president Yasser Soliman says there is nothing to be alarmed about. "There are some strong views expressed from the things I've seen about the situation [in the Middle East]. There are some comments broadcast by religious readers encouraging resistance ... but at the same time there were comments by President Bush," Soliman says.

"The channel handles things differently from how a secular channel would. But I think it's popular because it broadcasts things that aren't broadcast on other channels, from the victims' perspective. It is not a terror channel," Soliman says.

Tony Ishak, managing director of World Media International, a company that provides the three Arabic channels broadcast through Optus including Al-Jazeera, says there are no "hidden messages" in what is broadcast. "If anything, during the war it was probably poor viewing because they aren't very nice images to look at. It's basically about looking at the current situation in their language. They give perhaps greater editorial insight, which as far as I know is a good thing," he says.

He rejects outright the idea that the brutal images Al-Jazeera broadcasts plays on the sensitivities of Muslims living abroad. "If people see dead bodies they won't become terrorists, they ... are more likely to be against war and violence," he says.

Load-Date: June 25, 2003

Expat tales

Sunday Telegraph Magazine (Sydney, Australia) (Sydney, Australia)

May 22, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: MAGAZINE; Expat tales; Pg. 42

Length: 482 words

Byline: TONY MAGNUSSON

Body

Name Matthew Carney, 39

Location Beirut, Lebanon

Job TV correspondent

Facts Overseas for 4 years

As a Middle East correspondent for SBS, Matthew Carney and his family got the inside story on Beirut

So you're living it up in Lebanon? Actually, my wife, my daughter and I are about to come back to Australia, but I'll still be doing a lot of reporting from the Middle East.

Was your daughter born there? Yes, Catherine and I had her in February 2004. They are very into children here; children are the centre of the universe. Because Yasmine's blonde and blue-eyed, she gets Z-rate celebrity status. Anywhere we go, young girls cry out "before God!" in Arabic.

MATP

Do you feel safe there? In terms of civil crime - robberies, rapes, etc - Beirut is much safer than Australia. You can walk anywhere. The street we live in is a mixed area - it has Druze, Shiah, Sunni, Maronite Catholic and Greek Orthodox families. When Yasmine was born, the whole street came out to party and give us gifts.

Life before Lebanon? I spent 10 years reporting in South-East Asia before coming here as the Middle East correspondent for SBS's Dateline.

First impressions? Beirut really surprised me and continues to do so. It's such an eclectic little place and has a real energy - they really embrace life here. It's also a complete paradox: on one hand, it's a liberal party town; and, on the other, it's deeply religious and conservative. The bars and clubs are sensational, but then you walk 300m down the road and you're in a Hezbollah [Shiite Muslim extremist faction] area and the women are wearing chadors.

What are the people like? The Lebanese have a Mediterranean lifestyle and mentality. They are educated and are famous for their language ability. Even your greengrocer down the street will speak Arabic, French and English. In some places, Arabic isn't spoken because it's considered lower-class.

Expatriate tales

Had any strange experiences? Every year they have the Baalbek Festival, held on the site of Roman ruins. Last year, we saw a German opera there - sitting there with the Beirut literati - and outside there was a Hezbollah fight. The festival organisers told them they could fight, but only in intermission and after everyone had left, and that's what they did!

The Vegemite of Lebanon is ... Za'atar, a mixture of thyme, sesame seeds, olive oil and salt that you toast and put on bread. I love it.

What do you do on weekends? In summer, we go to beach clubs, like those in southern France. In winter, we go to the ski fields 45 minutes from Beirut.

Snow in Lebanon? Sure. Lebanon is probably the only country in the Middle East that doesn't have a water problem. Down south, the countryside is green and quite fertile, and there are dairy farms.

What will you remember most about your time in Lebanon? A sense that you're part of a secret that has revealed itself to you. There's no tourism here, yet it has so much to offer.

Load-Date: May 21, 2005

End of Document

Israeli removal of outpost called half-hearted

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 21, 2004 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; DIGEST

Length: 605 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: JERUSALEM; KABUL, Afghanistan; WASHINGTON; LIMA, Peru; ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

Body

Israeli troops tore down part of a synagogue at a West Bank settlement outpost Tuesday but made no attempt to move adjacent trailer homes, prompting accusations the government isn't serious about meeting U.S. demands to dismantle dozens of the outlawed sites.

Demolition on a far greater scale took place in the Gaza Strip, where army bulldozers smashed 25 houses and flattened a mosque in a Palestinian refugee camp, leaving 400 people homeless, local officials said.

The military said it targeted buildings from which shots were fired at Israeli forces, but did not know how many structures were demolished.

Compiled from Times Wires

ATTACK ON **HEZBOLLAH**: Israeli planes attacked two **Hezbollah** guerrilla bases in south Lebanon on Tuesday, the Israeli military said. There were no reports of casualties, Lebanese security officials said.

U.S. says raid killed

no Afghan civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan - U.S. military officials said Tuesday that a raid over the weekend in southern Afghanistan had killed only five Taliban fighters, not 11 civilians, as Afghan officials have reported.

But Abdul Rahman, the chief of the Char Chino district in Oruzgan province, where the incident took place, said again Tuesday that 11 civilians had been killed, including three **women** and four children.

Six lawmakers to visit Libya on Sunday

WASHINGTON - Six lawmakers are traveling to Libya this weekend to meet that country's leader, Moammar Gadhafi, and probably visit facilities where Gadhafi's government had begun programs to make weapons of mass destruction.

Israeli removal of outpost called half-hearted

The trip, announced Tuesday, will be the first by elected U.S. officials to the North African Arab country in almost four decades.

Led by Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., the bipartisan congressional delegation will go to Libya as U.S. and British experts are setting up their equipment to begin dismantling weapons programs to implement Gadhafi's recent pledge to disarm.

The delegation will fly Sunday morning into Tripoli and leave Monday for stops in Iraq and Afghanistan, Weldon said. The other lawmakers going on the trip are Reps. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas; Steve Israel, D-N.Y.; Rodney Alexander, D-La.; Candice Miller, R-Mich.; and Mark Souder, R-Ind.

Ex-aide to Peru's chief

goes on trial

LIMA, Peru - Former spymaster Vladimiro Montesinos went on trial Tuesday on charges he directed a scheme to parachute-drop 10,000 assault rifles into the hands of Colombian guerrillas.

Montesinos, security adviser to former President Alberto Fujimori through the 1990s, faces more than 60 charges ranging from corruption to drug trafficking and authorizing murder.

Pakistan blocks nuclear

scientists' foreign travel

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistan on Tuesday barred all scientists working on its nuclear weapons program from leaving the country, as the government intensified its inquiry into allegations that nuclear technology had been shared with Iran.

Also, the New York Times, quoting an unnamed senior intelligence official, reported that a former army commander had approved the transfer of technology to Iran.

The official said the scientist who had led the effort to build an atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, had told investigators that any sharing of nuclear technology with Iran had the approval of Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, the commander of Pakistan's army from 1988 to 1991.

Elsewhere . . .

IRANIAN ELECTION: Hard-line authorities said Tuesday that they were reinstating 200 candidates barred from running in next month's legislative elections and will reconsider thousands more. Proreform lawmakers, who have threatened to boycott the vote, vowed to continue their daily sit-ins in the lobby of Parliament.

Load-Date: January 21, 2004

MPs shake hands on peace as rockets hit

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

January 24, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 31

Length: 553 words

Byline: Imad Saadi

Body

TENSIONS rose again in the Middle East today as Hezbollah guerillas fired rockets and mortars on Israeli positions on the Lebanese-Syrian border, triggering a swift Israeli response.

The attacks follow a deadly Palestinian shooting spree in central Jerusalem yesterday in which two women died and 40 were injured.

But in Paris the speakers of the Israeli and Palestinian parliaments shook hands, while Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres put Israel's case before the Council of Europe

in Strasbourg.

MATP

The dovish Israeli parliament speaker Avraham Burg shook hands with his Palestinian counterpart Ahmed Qorei, a firm proponent of

the peace process.

Meanwhile israeli security forces were on top alert across the country after military intelligence chief Major General Aharon Zeevi warned yesterday Israel was facing a new bout of attacks on its cities, worse than any in the past.

But the only strike following yesterday's bloodshed came from Lebanon, where the disputed border which has been quiet for month suddenly exploded with Hezbollah mortar and rocket fire on the Shebaa Farms.

The area was captured by Israel from Syria in 1967 and is now claimed by Lebanon with Syrian consent.

Israel retaliated with missile strikes by warplanes and artillery shelling, Lebanese security services said.

Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer branded the assault "very dangerous" and said Iran and Syria had given the Lebanese guerrillas the green light, his spokesman said.

Israel earlier this month seized a ship laden with Iranian weapons which it said was headed for Gaza, although Iran and the Palestinian leadership denied any knowledge of it. A series of attacks and retaliatory strikes have undermined a ceasefire call last month by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, trapped by Israel in the West Bank town of Ramallah since last month.

MPs shake hands on peace as rockets hit

The shooting followed an Israeli raid into the West Bank city of Nablus to destroy a major bomb-making facility, in which four members of the radical Hamas movement were killed.

Some 15,000 people gathered today for the funerals of three of the Hamas militants, and heard a speaker call for the group's armed wing to resume its suicide bombings. Hamas issued a declaration of "total war" against Israel after the army's Nablus raid, which came just as the Israeli military ended a 30-hour re-occupation of the West Bank town of Tulkarem, itself in retaliation for an earlier shooting in Israel.

A coalition of all Palestinian groups, including Hamas and Fatah, also called yesterday for a "general mobilisation" against Israel.

US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the skyrocketing violence made it incumbent upon Mr Arafat to break up extremist organisations, as he has promised to do.

"The point is that he needs to dismantle the organisations that do these things," he said.

But Washington said no new US missions were in the works, following the departure of envoy Anthony Zinni from the region on January 6.

Mr Arafat says he is unable to act effectively against extremists without freedom of movement for himself and his police.

In Strasbourg, Mr Peres put the blame for the latest violence and the stalled peace process firmly at Mr Arafat's door.

"If Arafat doesn't bring an end to terrorism, terrorism will bring an end to him," Mr Peres warned.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Arab view dims on Iraq rebels

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

November 2, 2004, Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 01

Length: 1157 words

Byline: By Dan Murphy and Nicholas Blanford

Dateline: CAIRO AND BEIRUT

Highlight: Insurgent tactics are drawing rebukes from the Arab world.

Body

More than a year and a half after the US invasion of Iraq, popular support in the Arab world for the insurgents is softening - somewhat.

With images of civilian casualties from US airstrikes set against insurgent slayings of unarmed Iraqi police and civilians, Arabs and the Arab media are increasingly struggling with the question of how far to support an insurgency that sometimes uses tactics they feel are immoral.

Conversations with ordinary people, intellectuals, and politicians illustrate that clearer lines are being drawn in people's minds between what is seen as "legitimate" and "illegitimate" resistance.

"People are coming ... to grips with complicated realities," says Abdel Moneim Said, director of Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies. "We can't deal with the emergence of groups like the ones who bombed Taba here in Egypt until we understand that some of these so-called resistance groups are intrinsically evil."

Egyptian militants killed 34 people in attacks on Taba, popular with Israeli tourists, and a nearby campsite on Oct. 7.

Mr. Said says that while most still see the US invasion and occupation of Iraq in stark terms, there is a growing number of regional thinkers who are also looking at the chaos of postinvasion Iraq as a partial consequence of Saddam Hussein's divide-and-rule policies and seeing some of the problems of pre-invasion Iraq reflected in their own societies.

"After three, four decades of independence we're coming to see that not all of our problems are generated from the outside," says Said. "Gradually Arab countries see it's not only independence versus occupation, it's also freedom, development, and progress or the lack of progress. We can see our societies are not what we'd like them to be."

When the US invasion began, a fairly one-dimensional view of the war's actors was held by most in the region, with its history of interventions by Western powers. Like an American western with a Mesopotamian twist, the Arab media scripted the war as the checkered headscarves of the insurgents (the white hats) against the Kevlar helmets of US airborne, infantry, and Marines (the black).

Arab view dims on Iraq rebels

But among the events that have created doubts in some Arab minds have been the videotaped beheadings of a number of foreign contractors, the executions of 49 unarmed Iraqi military trainees last week, and the kidnapping of aid-worker Margaret Hassan, an Iraqi citizen and critic of the US invasion.

Doubts about the 'good guys'

The US remains the principal "bad guy," but the realities of an ugly war are leading to a more ambivalent attitudes towards the insurgency.

Even Lebanon's Hizbullah, a Shiite Islamist group that Washington says is a terrorist organization, has criticized the extremists. Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hizbullah's secretary-general, said recently: "Indiscriminate and arbitrary acts are not resistance. The true resistance should protect its people and not kill them."

"In general the Arab people are with the Iraqi resistance," says Ahmed Sheikh, editor in chief of Al Jazeera, the Arab satellite channel that has often been criticized by US officials. "But the feedback we get is that people are very opposed to attacks like the killings of the 49 Iraqis. People know they're trying to feed their families and say it's haram [forbidden]. Attacks on US forces, though, are seen differently."

In Lebanon and Syria, among the most vocal opponents of the invasion, anger at the US remains high but is tempered by a growing sense of disgust at the brutal tactics of some insurgent groups.

"Arabs are differentiating between the legitimate resistance against foreign military occupation troops and unacceptable terrorism that is killing Iraqis or innocent foreigners," says Rami Khouri, executive editor of Beirut's English-language Daily Star newspaper. "The differentiation is very clear and very vocal."

"We abhor taking hostages, particularly women and children, and we abhor killing hostages. It's against our values, whether we are Muslims or Christians," says Mohammed Aziz Shucri, professor of international law at Damascus University. Professor Shucri says resistance attacks should be confined only to foreign troops. "Attacking civilians is not resistance against occupation."

Chibli Mallat, professor of international law at Beirut's St. Joseph University, says that public perception of the resistance in Iraq "has always been nuanced between supporting genuine acts of resistance as opposed to the killing of civilians." But recently, and somewhat surprisingly, Mr. Mallat says this distinction has come to be made by stridently anti-American groups. "Some of them have been on record recently saying this is totally unacceptable," he says.

US critics also rethink

One of them is Salim Hoss, a former Lebanese prime minister, who is a staunch critic of US Mideast policy.

On Tuesday he wrote in Lebanon's leading daily An-Nahar that some militants in Iraq are defiling the name of Islam. "Islam is a religion of forgiveness," Mr. Hoss wrote. "People should not kill others in the name of Islam because they don't know how much it hurts all Muslims."

"America is an illegal occupier, but I abhor the inhuman tactics some of these groups use," he said in a phone interview.

To be sure, there are still almost daily pictures of injured Iraqi women and children hurt in US bombings, and for many, those images trump any excesses by groups like Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad.

Images on TV

And while big regional newspapers like Al-Sharq Al-Awsat and Al-Hayat were careful to point out that the 49 young Iraqi soldiers were unarmed and executed, much of the daily press in Egypt, for instance, created the impression that they were killed in a shootout.

Arab view dims on Iraq rebels

"Many Saudis pretend that Zarqawi is an imaginary figure because they don't like a lot of what's attributed to him," says Mshari al-Thaidi, who writes for Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, which is published in London. "They don't want to pollute the image of the resistance, so they pretend he doesn't exist. They claim he's a figure created by the C.I.A."

"It's painful for people," says Al-Ahram's Said. "Even in the Ramadan evening talks among my family, there's a kind of annoyance and denunciation of the brutality, but they want to go over it quickly and get to talking about Palestine and America's failings in Iraq."

And though public opinion is drifting in a more critical direction, few expect it to have any impact on car bombings and kidnappings inside Iraq any time soon.

Radical Islamists in Iraq "are not in the game of winning popular approval for their actions," says the Daily Star's Mr. Khouri. "These are not people after audience share. They don't expect to get elected to office. The reality is that they don't care and they are operating on a different plane from the rest of the society."

* Reporter Faiza Saleh Ambah contributed from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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Load-Date: November 1, 2004

Hussein's removal could unite Mid-East

The Australian

February 20, 2003, Thursday All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- OP ED; Pg. 13

Length: 952 words

Byline: Greg Sheridan, Foreign editor

Body

A successful Iraqi campaign would discredit extremism and hasten Israeli-Palestinian peace

IN the emotional debate on Iraq facts and analysis have been in short supply. It is often asserted that removing Saddam Hussein would "destabilise the Middle East".

I spent the past week in Israel talking to a range of strategic analysts about the likely consequences of an Iraq operation.

The starting point is that the Mid-East is in much worse shape than we generally realise. This derives from the failure of political evolution and economic development and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

MATP

The pervasive economic and political failure of the Arab Middle East, which cannot be blamed on the US or Israel, is evident in the Arab Human Development Report published by the UN Development Program. It reported that more than half of Arab women are illiterate, the infant mortality rate is double that of Latin America and per capita economic growth over the past 20 years is lower only in sub-Saharan Africa.

How will all this be affected by a US-led operation in Iraq? First, the chief strategic beneficiaries of the operation will be Iran, Israel, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The first three have been attacked by Iraq and the Saudis threatened and menaced. Iran has done very well out of the war on terror. It has seen the disappearance of one enemy in the Taliban in Afghanistan and now the likely disappearance of another, in Hussein in Iraq.

That's why, despite pro forma objections to US action, Tehran is planning to offer substantial assistance to any US operation. It shouldn't be assumed that Iran will be successful in establishing political hegemony over Iraq's Shi'ite population in the south. Iran's Shiah are ethnically Persian, Iraq's are a mixture of Arabs and non-Arabs. And Iraq's Shi'ites mostly fought loyally against their fellow Shi'ites in Iran in the Iran-Iraq war.

In some ways what happens in Iran is the biggest single swing factor in the Middle East. Iran is much more cautious than Iraq. It hasn't attacked its neighbours, or used weapons of mass destruction. But it lavishly sponsors Hezbollah, one of the most murderous terrorist groups in the world. It is caught in a seemingly endless battle between moderates associated with President Mohammad Khatami and extremists associated with the religious establishment. Rather ominously, former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is regarded as a pragmatist who blows with the wind, recently observed that Israel could not survive a single nuclear strike.

Hussein's removal could unite Mid-East

The best Israeli analysts believe Hezbollah is likely to be relatively restrained over the next few years while Iran acquires nuclear weapons. Iran certainly has chemical and biological weapons already. It has embarked on a vast and partly secretive nuclear program, allegedly for energy purposes, despite having among the world's largest oil reserves.

Iran's happiness at the demise of Hussein will be partly offset by anxiety at encircling US influence in Iraq, the Gulf and Afghanistan. Its reformers could well be encouraged if a credible, more democratic state emerges in Iraq.

How Iran, and Hezbollah, will behave after Iran has the impregnable security of nuclear weapons is deeply unclear.

The situation in Afghanistan is poor by any standards. The management of post-war Afghanistan has been the weakest element in Washington's conduct of the war on terror. The Afghan war lords, some of them active drug traders, are making a comeback and even al-Qaida has re-established itself as a military force on the Pakistan-Afghan border. The key to reforming the Middle East through a new and better dispensation in Iraq will be the degree and competence of postwar US efforts there. A mood of euphoric victory, if that's what comes, may induce the US to redouble efforts in Afghanistan, which is certainly necessary.

Our old friend Libya is making a strange comeback as well. It has stopped sponsoring international terrorism but has made efforts to weaponise biological agents and has a chemical weapons stockpile. It has also got back into the business of trying to acquire long-range missiles.

George W.Bush has been much derided for his phrase "axis of evil" but it is a profoundly disturbing truth that North Korea has been the main proliferator of nuclear weapons and missile technology to the Middle East, especially to Iran but also to Syria, Libya and Egypt. This is in part why the Iraq and North Korea crises are linked. The Bush administration is making a desperate effort to prevent the development of a world in which virtually every big nation in the Middle East, and many others in other parts of the world, possess nuclear weapons.

Hopefully the fall of Hussein will have a Ceaucescu effect throughout the Arab world (which is why so many Arab dictators are so ambivalent about it) with other Arab populations saying they too should be freer and better educated and wealthier than they are.

There is a lot of hope that the Iraq campaign could produce an acceleration in political negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The rationale for this hope is that Hussein's fall would discredit extremism, thus leading the Palestinians to realistic negotiations, while the Bush administration would want to further bolster its position with the Islamic world and would nudge the Israelis to return to the peace table.

However, one lesson of recent years is that concessions made under fire, by Israel or the US, do not help Arab moderates. Rather, they encourage extremists to increase the level of fire to produce more concessions.

Bottom line is, short of the war going catastrophically, the Middle East is bound to be better without Hussein.

Load-Date: February 19, 2003

Israelis ordered into shelters

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 8, 2002 Monday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. a9

Length: 208 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli military on Sunday ordered civilians along the border with Lebanon to go into bomb shelters after several cross-border attacks injured five Israelis, including three soldiers.

Guerrillas opened fire on several Israeli villages and army bases from Lebanon, the military said.

Two women were wounded at the village of Avivim, rescue workers said.

In other attacks, rifle fire was aimed at Kibbutz Manara, a collective farming community next to the border in the Galilee panhandle, a strip of Israeli territory bordering Lebanon. No injuries were reported.

Also, rockets were fired at Israeli military posts in the Golan Heights, near the Lebanon border. Three soldiers were injured, the military and Army Radio said.

The Israeli military retaliated with tank and artillery fire, the military said. After previous incidents, Israeli leaders warned they would retaliate harshly for fire from Lebanon.

After a period of calm, the Israel-Lebanon border has been heating up in recent days. Israeli officials believe that the Iran-backed Hezbollah is trying to open a new front to coincide with Palestinian-Israeli fighting.

Lebanese police in recent days have arrested several bands of militant Palestinians and accused them of firing across the border.

Load-Date: April 14, 2002

Suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis Attack by Palestinian policeman coincides with prisoner exchange

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 30, 2004, Friday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P12A

Length: 899 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - A suicide bomber struck a bus near Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Jerusalem residence Thursday, killing 10 Israelis and wounding 50 in the deadliest attack in four months and disrupting modest U.S. efforts to restart peace talks.

The blast blew out the back and roof of the green city bus and sent body parts flying into nearby buildings. Survivors crawled out of broken bus windows. The bombing was only 50 feet from Sharon's house, but he was away at the time.

The bomber was a Palestinian police officer - causing much chagrin within the Palestinian Authority, which has been under international pressure to use its police force to stop such attacks.

The attack coincided with a prisoner exchange between Israel and the Lebanese guerrilla group **Hezbollah** - a deal questioned by many Israelis.

Lebanese prisoners released by Israel returned home Thursday to a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of flag-waving people, from **Hezbollah** guerrilla comrades to veiled **women** who showered them in rice and rose petals.

Israel also freed about 400 Palestinians to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of the German-brokered deal with **Hezbollah**. Delighted relatives greeted the Palestinians and expressed thanks to the Lebanese militant group.

In return, Israel received the bodies of three of its soldiers and won the release of a kidnapped Israeli businessman. Israelis held a memorial service for the three dead, but whisked away Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was kidnapped while reportedly engaged in a shady business deal, for interrogation.

After the suicide attacks, Israel said it would not seal off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but the military was divided over whether to retaliate for the bombing, security officials said. Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz met late Thursday to discuss options.

Vice Premier Ehud Olmert acknowledged that Israeli reprisals have proven ineffective and has instead said Israel should withdraw quickly from parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and impose a boundary on the Palestinians - something Sharon has suggested he would do by June if peace efforts fail.

"Terror has ... continued without any relation to the strength of our response," Olmert said.

Suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis Attack by Palestinian policeman coincides with prisoner exchange

Sharon charged that the Palestinian Authority, headed by Yasser Arafat, "does not lift a finger to remove the scourge of terrorism from its midst."

The suicide bomber, 24-year-old Ali Jaara, from a West Bank refugee camp, blew up a 15-pound bag of explosives on Jerusalem city bus No. 19 just before 9 a.m. At the time, the bus was passing Sharon's house in the Rehavia district of downtown Jerusalem.

Passenger Svetlana Minchiker, in her 30s, said she was talking on her cell phone as the blast went off. "At first, I did not see anything except my hands," she said, holding up one hand still red with blood. A trickle of dried blood marked her left cheek.

"As my feelings slowly returned to me, I managed to ... crawl through the window."

The bombing was the deadliest since a suicide bomber killed 21 people at a seaside restaurant in Haifa on Oct. 4. The most recent bombing in Israel was a suicide attack at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv on Dec. 25 that killed four people.

Thursday's bomber, Jaara, was a member of the Palestinian police and was sent by the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed group with ties to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia appealed "to all parties to stop this bloody series of violence," referring also to the deaths of eight Palestinians in an Israeli incursion into Gaza City on Wednesday. Five of the eight were armed men killed in gun battles with soldiers.

The attack disrupted a visit by two senior State Department officials, David Satterfield and John Wolf, who were trying to persuade Qureia to meet with Sharon as a way of restarting the stalled "road map" peace plan. The envoys were at Israel's Defense Ministry when the bomb went off.

Satterfield and Wolf proposed hosting a meeting with Israeli and Palestinian officials later Thursday to discuss the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian areas. But Sharon canceled the meeting after the blast.

Palestinian officials said the U.S. envoys came empty-handed, and that there were no expectations they would produce a breakthrough.

In the refugee camp of Aida, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, the bomber's distraught parents said he was a quiet and devout Muslim who showed little interest in politics. Jaara left a note saying he was avenging those killed in Gaza a day before.

Jaara's father, Munir, said his son was the only breadwinner in a family of 11, and had been hoping to start a family. "I was expecting to marry him, not to bury him," the father said.

Jaara's mother sat on a mattress on the floor, crying. She carried a picture of her son in a police uniform with his police-issue assault rifle.

The Palestinian attacks are "really bad for us. They only hurt us," said his 26-year-old sister, Ola.

The bombing could undermine the Palestinians' campaign against the separation barrier Israel is building in the West Bank. The International Court of Justice is to hear arguments on Feb. 23 over the legality of the barrier, which the Palestinians say grabs land they want for a state.

Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin, said the attack underscores the need for the barrier to keep out assailants. "No one has the right to question us and bring us to court on how to defend ourselves," he said.

Suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis Attack by Palestinian policeman coincides with prisoner exchange

End of Document

Fear in Syria: After Iraq, who's next?

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 14, 2003 Friday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 1276 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Dateline: DAMASCUS, Syria

Body

Barbie has come to Syria. So have Pepsi and Coca-Cola. Now Syria's 17-million people fear something more sinister from America - a war against Iraq that could make them the next targets on the U.S. hit list.

"Baghdad today! Damascus tomorrow!" shouted dozens of women at a weekend rally here in the Syrian capital.

"Syria is adamantly against the war because none of the postwar scenarios seems favorable to it," says Nadim Shehadi, an expert on the country at Oxford University. "It's for the preservation of the status quo mainly because the repercussions of war could be dangerous for it."

War would end a thriving trade in which Syria smuggles in cheap Iraqi oil and sells its own oil to Europe at higher prices. The aftermath of any conflict could also leave the nation politically isolated.

"If there is a pro-American regime in Iraq, Syria will be surrounded by pro-American countries - Turkey, Jordan, Israel and Iraq," Shehadi says. "Syria looks good compared to Iraq, but once Saddam Hussein is gone, it may again be identified as a rogue state, which it is trying to get out of."

Under its youthful new leader, Syria has shown some encouraging signs of reform. It has cooperated with America in the war on terror. But it remains on the State Department's list of countries that support terrorism because of its backing of Hezbollah, the militant group that has killed dozens of Israelis.

Syria is also home to Ramadan Shallah, head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. In February, he was indicted along with University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian and seven others on charges related to the organization's alleged activities in the United States.

Syria maintains that Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad are legitimate resistance groups trying to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands. That plays well in the Arab world, but not in the United States, Israel's closest ally. In recent talks with Israeli leaders, a top U.S. official said Syria, along with Iran, Libya and North Korea, would be next after Iraq.

What "next" means is the big question here.

"One of the main factors in the psychology of anti-Americanism is that nobody knows exactly what America wants," says Dr. A.S. Altaqi, a cardiologist and former member of Syria's parliament.

Fear in Syria : After Iraq , who's next?

"Nobody is with Saddam Hussein in the Syrian street, but there is huge fear of ultimate repercussions. Will there be a change in the status of Syria? What will happen to Iraq? Is the United States going to be a force of continuous intervention in the area or does it want a stable geopolitical system in the region?"

In Syria, a secular country where Muslims, Christians and Jews have lived together peacefully for centuries, opposition to war has taken some unsettling turns. State-controlled newspapers and TV are even more stridently anti-Israel than usual. Increasing numbers of women wear head coverings.

"Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise," Altaqi says. "Even secular, democratic people are now shifting to Islam because it is the only expression of identity against what they think is American aggression."

For Syrians, war couldn't come at a worse time. After 30 years under the stifling, sometimes brutal rule of Hafez al-Assad, the country at last seems to be opening to the outside world.

When Assad died in 2000, power went to his son, Bashar, a London-educated eye doctor. He freed hundreds of political prisoners, closed several infamous prisons and promised legal and economic reforms. Dozens of "salons," or forums, sprang up, in which citizens discussed political, cultural and social issues.

A new sense of energy pervaded the country, especially here in Damascus.

Compared to five years ago, the city is flourishing. The first mall opened within the past year; a luxury Four Seasons hotel is under construction. The streets are clean and lined with new boutiques, flower shops and coffee bars.

Although Syria still protects its industries from foreign competition, Barbie, Coke and other U.S. brand-name products are imported through neighboring Lebanon and are now readily available.

"It takes optimism and patience" but sales are increasing, says the owner of a new toy store, a young Syrian who graduated from Canada's McGill University with a degree in business administration. Syria has one of the highest rates of literacy in the Arab world: 93 percent for men and 78 percent for women.

"For an Arab country, Syria has changed, but I don't think Americans know that," says a waiter at the new City Center mall, where patrons sip espressos while watching American music videos.

In general, Damascus no longer has the oppressive air it did in the past. The police seem more friendly and relaxed. And while stores and offices still display portraits of the Assads, they are smaller and fewer.

"There is a much freer atmosphere than before," says Oxford's Shehadi. "There is definitely a change."

Yet Syria is by no means a free country.

The salons, which had begun pressing for radical change, have been disbanded and several political dissidents jailed. Hotmail.com and some other popular Internet sites are blocked for fear they could be used to spread subversive ideas. Syrians warn foreigners that their hotel phones might be tapped.

Last week, the government announced the winners of elections to the People's Assembly, an "important democratic establishment." In reality, the 250-member parliament has no power, although Assad will rely on its support as he pushes for reforms.

The struggle to solve Syria's internal problems is complicated by two huge external ones: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and war on Iraq.

Syria maintains there can be no true peace in the Middle East unless all issues are resolved between Israel and the Arab world. That includes Syria's demand that Israel return the Golan Heights, captured in the 1967 war.

With sentiments against Israel and America running high, even critics concede it would be hard for Assad to crack down now on anti-Israeli groups like Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. Doing so would cost him support among his people and further delay reform.

Fear in Syria : After Iraq , who's next?

"A leader can't afford to confront the street while he is weakened outside and weakened inside," says Ataqi, who calls himself a political activist. "Even if you could demolish **Hezbollah**, it will turn into 10 other radical organizations. This will not change the world - you have to change the detonator."

Syria also has antagonized the United States and hurt its chances to share in the rebuilding of Iraq because of its strong stance against war. A nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council, it voted for the resolution to disarm Iraq but has said it would oppose one authorizing use of military force.

At a recent Arab League summit, Assad urged Arab countries not to open their military bases to America. He also refused to support a call for Saddam Hussein to go into exile to avoid war.

Syria has been so unyielding in its position on Iraq that it risks "being isolated on a geo-strategic limb," Lebanon's Daily Star wrote in an editorial.

But Oxford's Shehadi says the country wants to be involved in postwar Iraq and could be a valuable participant.

"The Syrians play a very clever balancing act between all the parties in the region. . . . They have the rhetoric, but in reality they are reliable and useful and quite reasonable."

- Susan Taylor Martin can be contacted at susan@sptimes.com

Antique American automobiles, such as this 1957 Pontiac, are cherished and operated proudly in Syria.

Spitting-image knockoffs of American brand-name products are everywhere in Damascus, as seen in this sign for "Master Cola." Others include Cheer-Up (Seven-Up), and Pizza Hot (Pizza Hut).

Graphic

PHOTO, JAMIE FRANCIS, (3); MAP; a 1957 Pontiac in Syria; A Syrian man pays respect at a shrine for Mashhad al Hussein, the grandson of the prophet Mohammed, whose head is believed to lie inside the Al Hussein Mausoleum in Damascus.; A sign on the street in Damascus reads "Master; Cola."; Map locates Damascus in Syria.

Load-Date: March 14, 2003

Israel targets Hezbollah in Lebanon

Ottawa Citizen

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 144 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - Israeli warplanes twice bombed suspected *Hezbollah* targets along the border in southern Lebanon yesterday, wounding two *women*, after guerrillas blew up an Israeli bulldozer in a disputed area near the frontier, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli artillery pounded positions in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, where the bulldozer attack took place, before fighter jets raided two other Lebanese border regions.

The Lebanese security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two Lebanese *women* were injured after Israeli planes fired two missiles at targets in Qsair, an area about six kilometres from the Israeli border.

Hours later, another jet fired a missile at Wadi Izziyeh, an area where *Hezbollah* maintains positions between the southern port city of Tyre and the border town of Naqoura on the Mediterranean coast. There was no word on casualties.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Windsor Star (Ontario)

December 18, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A11; Letter

Length: 2884 words

Body

Environment will benefit from recycling of autos

Re: your Dec. 11 editorial, Old Vehicles: CAW Should Scrap Idea. Contrary to your criticism, the main beneficiary of a federal vehicle recycling law mandating that all vehicles sold in Canada must be recycled in Canada would be the environment -- not the CAW.

In order for the human species (and corporations) to succeed in the future, we must reuse our dwindling resources continuously to make new products. Even small children know that it's better for our environment to practise the 3Rs.

This legislation will actually create jobs for Canadians. Scrap vehicles will be disassembled here instead of in China. This would in fact offer the auto recycling sector greater opportunities.

Windsor Star

Corporations will no longer pay to use material once and bury it. Waste disposal costs will shrink. Recycled material will become cheaper than virgin material. The savings would offset related costs and prevent increased costs to the consumer. As a bonus, we would be less dependent on foreign oil needed to make plastics.

MARK BARTLETT

CAW Environmental Representative

DaimlerChrysler Windsor Assembly Plant

LETTER OF THE DAY: Letter writer wrong about Bush's tactics

In response to Chris Schnurr's letter that states George W. Bush ought to try diplomacy over war tactics in regards to Iraq: He states the only interest the U.S. has in Iraq is oil reserves. That's funny because the current situation is not about oil.

If it were, Canada and many other countries would be toe-to-toe with the U.S. like they were 11 years ago because many countries, including Canada, have self-serving agendas as well.

Furthermore, he states Canada has never asked for military support from the U.S. What does he call Canada hitching a ride with the U.S. to Afghanistan? He goes on to say that Bush is trying to legitimize the massacre of innocent civilians. Could Mr. Schnurr remind us all when any U.S. president killed thousands of his own civilians with chemicals?

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

He states Canada's use of diplomacy has been very effective. So what has been Canada's diplomatic track record with Iraq and terrorists? I would imagine it has been very good, considering our country is a safe haven for terrorists and that some fortunate Quebec residents will be receiving Season's Greetings from Yasser Arafat -- on the taxpayers' expense I may add.

E. VINCENT

LaSalle

Pray for reason in church controversy

Re: Church is a building, faith is what counts, Dec. 13. The letter writer asks the fundamental question of why there exists an ongoing debate to preserve the churches when the decision to demolish them and build one new church has already been made?

This poignant question delves into the heart of the issue at hand. The crux of the argument for those who seek to build "new," rests on two premises -- existing buildings are so decrepit that the cost to repair is not justified versus the cost to build new; and this is the will of the people as demonstrated in the now infamous vote.

One could take this opportunity to rehash the inherent flaws in this vote (million-dollar carrot, lack of information, appeal of priest to vote new or the professional appraisals which contradict the diocesan's assessment of the century-old buildings), but I would prefer to address the writer's more pressing question of why the ongoing debate.

Matters of what is right or wrong, good or bad ought to rest in principles of reason, something true in and of itself, not in conscience, intuition, or popular opinion. The issue of demolition seems to test this proposition. In other words, even if the basic premises to demolish as stipulated above are true and substantial, then it still does not necessarily follow that demolition ought to occur.

My intention is merely to assert why the ongoing debate exists. Suffice to say, the debate is alive and well with good reason and let's pray that, in the end, reason shall prevail.

DAVID KOSTANJEVEC

Tecumseh

Hezbollah responsible for Lebanon's liberation

I am writing in response to the many articles I have read by Canadian Press referring to the **Hezbollah** issue:

Why is it that the government sees fit to place a group that has benefited South Lebanon so much on its terrorist list, but chooses to turn its back when it comes to state-sponsored terrorism? What do you call Israel after it bombed the UN compound in Lebanon, in April 1996, killing approximately 102 refugees? What do you call Israel after it gave out the command for the Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon, in 1982, which caused thousands of civilian casualties, mostly **women**, children and elderly?

Hezbollah is the main reason behind Lebanon's liberation after decades of Israeli occupation and the force behind the running water project in the south.

To Stockwell Day who "wants Canada to support U.S. action, whether or not the United Nations does, if the Americans conclude Iraq is not meeting its commitments to give up weapons of mass destruction:" Did you run for a political seat in the wrong country? I don't remember Al-Qaida ever funding orphanages, schools, housing projects, or charities. This is injustice.

As a Canadian citizen and student, I ask of our government to live up to its reputation of working with justice and equality.

IJAB KHANAFER

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Windsor

Comartin's stand appalls union member

Re: MP rips ban on Hezbollah, Dec. 14. I am appalled that Joe. Comartin would take the position of supporting the Hezbollah, a well-known and documented terrorist faction.

As a constituent in his riding and a CAW member, I find it galling and repugnant that a portion of my union dues are backing political parties and politicians that brazenly support terrorist groups.

Hezbollah has been cited as a terrorist organization by several countries, including our own and whose leader has recently called for an escalation of terrorist activities.

The picture of Mr. Comartin with Saddam Hussein in the backdrop is also very disturbing. To insinuate that the picture was taken only to establish that he was in Iraq borders on the inane.

It is quite obvious he is trying to court support from left-wing radical groups for his failing NDP leadership campaign.

I urge all of my union brothers and sisters to call their locals and demand that their union dues no longer support political parties and their candidates who support terrorist groups and their activities.

STEVE BEAUDOIN

Windsor

Comartin embarrasses Canada and Windsor

Joe Comartin, Windsor-St.Clair MP, is embarrassing both Canada and Windsor in particular by protesting the ban on Hezbollah, the terrorist group.

Remember, it was Hezbollah that bombed the U.S. marine barracks in 1983, killing 250 marines. We don't need dangerous people like that in this country.

JENNIE. BERKELEY

Windsor

Comartin repeatedly has condemned Saddam

I found it very strange that The Windsor Star would choose to write a full-length article covering Windsor-St. Clair NDP MP Joe Comartin's photo with a portrait of Saddam Hussein.

I find it stranger still that this paper would print comments inferring that Comartin was somehow expressing support for the Iraqi dictator.

First of all, almost every building in Iraq has pictures of Hussein plastered everywhere. Anyone who has been to the country can tell you that. It's surprising that Hussein wasn't in more photos.

Second, anyone who has even paid minimal attention to Comartin's leadership campaign would know that he has repeatedly condemned Hussein's authoritarian regime.

He even reportedly compared Hussein to "Satan" at a recent campaign fundraiser in a fit of indignation over Hussein's human rights record. Those are hardly the words of of a sympathizer.

LAUREL H. SEYBOLD

Windsor

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Only healthy solution is a bridge down river

This is in regard to Ted Varga's letter Dec 13. I have chosen to live in Riverside, to stay away from the bad air that is such a problem down river. It is very easy for someone to support DRTP as a method to help our border problems.

I myself could easily say that this proposal may only affect South Windsor neighbourhoods and part of the city centre, but I would be wrong.

The border truck traffic problem needs a solution, yes, but not at the cost of the health of the people in Windsor. Thousands of trucks being routed through the largest urban area can't be good for the population's health. The E.C. Row solution is also not the way to go. Keep the trucks out of the city. Build a new bridge down river and build a new multi-lane service road from the 401 to that bridge.

Mr. Varga, you don't have a vote of what happens in Windsor. The people who live in Windsor have put up with enough. It's time for us to vote these trucks and pollution out of our city.

How would you like it in your neighbourhood?

STEVE LUTSCH

Windsor

The NIMBY effect won't solve anything

I have taken great interest in the number of recent letters to the editor regarding the proposals for the routing of trade vehicles through Windsor to the U.S. and vice versa. As a South Windsor resident having built a brand new home this year, I do not necessarily take the same view of the DRTP proposal or others as some of my neighbours.

Having reviewed all of the current proposals, none of them appeal to me or my family. Then again, we are not transportation design experts.

As a building design professional, however, I have had the opportunity to study the NIMBY (not in my backyard) effect and how it impacts planners attempting to solve one problem, but creating another.

Planning 101 -- you can only please half of the population, half of the time. As residents and ratepayers, let us all face reality -- no matter what the end result is to the planning of this issue, someone in our community is going to be affected. Shifting the focus from one neighbourhood to another will not relieve the impact of trade-related transportation.

No matter how far south or east one pushes the boundary of acceptability for noxious fume release, the city and county will ultimately grow to surround it, or at least one would hope through regional growth patterns. You do not have to look very far for an example, Zalev's steel yard, the DCX minivan plant. At one time, these were all located in the peripheral areas of the city.

Let's allow the experts who carry with them a global perspective to find the best solution -- the NIMBY effect will not solve anything. Windsor and Essex County still have a chance to shine here and show North America they are willing and can solve the trade route issue.

D.A. SMITH

Windsor

People must act on global warming

Global warming is a serious issue that is becoming more and more known throughout the world. More people every day are becoming aware of the issue of global warming, through the media and in schools.

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

This issue needs to be dealt with as soon as possible before bad things start to happen and slowly destroy our world.

We have to stop polluting as much as we do; driving and factory pollution play a huge part in this issue. The greenhouse gases have to be lowered significantly if we are going to save our earth. The glaciers have already started to melt and sea levels have risen.

If we do not act fast, then our coastal cities will be no longer. Places that usually get a lot of rain will dry out and those places that just need a little precipitation will get none.

Polluted rain clouds cannot rain, the water droplets compared to the amount of pollution holding them in are too small. Soon animal life will start dying off and then eventually humans. People who want to push global warming off like it isn't a big deal really need to wake up and take a look around.

Global warming cannot fix itself. If we all had the attitude that we didn't care, the world as we know it will be lost forever. We are just sending ourselves and our families to an untimely death.

People may not think that it will happen fast enough to affect them, but what about their children and grandchildren?

RACHELLE McARTHUR

Windsor

Diabetes group says thanks for support

The management and staff of the Canadian Diabetes Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Essex and Kent counties for their continuing support of our organization.

Your donations of used clothing and household items are helping us with our mission to promote the health of Canadians through diabetes research, education, service and advocacy.

ANITA WALL

Operation Manager

Canadian Diabetes Association

Windsor

Hurst may run again but he can't hide from voters

I read in Dec. 14 paper that Mayor Mike Hurst is seriously considering running for re-election next November.

I hope all the people of Windsor who have complained about his time in office will put their money where their mouth is and vote him out of office.

SCOTT MacLEOD

Windsor

Studies favour semesters as much as no semesters

It is refreshing to hear that the public school board has listened to the public it was elected to serve. A large majority of students, parents and staff at General Amherst High School wanted to retain the semester system and the board has listened.

However, trustee Jim Cooke's comments, Dec.12 regarding semestering versus desestemering should be addressed.

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

There is no definitive study that gives credence to his assertion that desemestered schools perform better than semestered ones. At the information meeting in November at General Amherst, it was made known to parents and students that for every study that supports the superiority of desemestered schooling, there is also one that supports semestered schooling as superior.

Mr. Cooke's assertion regarding the retention of material seems to be no more than a red herring considering that General Amherst students are now performing at a higher level than many desemestered schools in the province.

It fails to recognize the 2 1/2-month break from any schooling in the summer and the Christmas and spring breaks - all of which the students seem to recover from to out perform many of their peers in desemestered systems.

His argument is more peculiar considering that all post-secondary education programs I am aware of are semestered programs, with a four-month summer break.

GARNET WIGLE

Amherstburg

Police can only enforce pot laws, not make them

In Gord Henderson's Dec. 14 article, he made some great points in that marijuana decriminalization will get our U.S. neighbours all riled up against us and that it will attract U.S. tourists by the bus load.

I just have one point. In the article, you quote Police Chief Stannard as stating that marijuana leads to other harder drugs. The Star's editorial board, the Senate, Canadian government studies and the Parliament all refute this.

Which one is it?

In the article, Gord Henderson also seemed to be scared of offending the Americans.

The fact of the matter is that it just would be plain embarrassing if we changed our drug policy now to placate the Americans.

Especially with polls showing that Canadians feel morally superior to them, that we want to be independent of them and that most Canadians support marijuana decriminalization.

I think the police have done way too much political action on the marijuana issue and it should be reinforced that police are to enforce the laws, not make them.

JIM BALDWIN

Windsor

CAS grateful to all golfers, sponsors

On behalf of the board of directors of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Foundation and the administration of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the 10th Annual Golf for Kids Tournament Honouring Robert Knobby Knudsen raised over \$22,000 for the society.

The tournament, held Sept. 27, competed with one of the heaviest rain storms in what was an otherwise very dry summer and early fall. Despite the elements, the majority of the golfers hung in and enjoyed a great day on the course.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Don Wiley and the members of the Circle of Seven for once again organizing the event. Finally, to all our golfers, guests, sponsors, volunteers and friends of Knobby, your generosity will go a long way in supporting our children, our future.

TALKING POINT A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

WILLIAM R. BEVAN

Executive Director

Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society

City should go after thoughtless bikers

Letter writer Nick Simic, a senior, made an excellent suggestion on Dec. 6 about the problem of adult bicycle riders still travelling on the sidewalk on streets such as University Avenue where there is a marked bicycle lane on the road.

He suggested "erecting sidewalk signs and instructing bikers that the sidewalk is strictly for pedestrians." Yes, that is a great idea to remind ignorant and forgetful bikers.

Along some very busy and narrow streets in this city, riding a bicycle on the sidewalk is forgivable, but not where there is a bike lane.

Such thoughtless bikers should be given a fine without hesitation. And pedestrians ought to be able to point to a sign to remind forgetful bikers of the bylaw.

The sign ought to say something like "no big bikes on the sidewalk."

Put up many such signs along every road with a bike lane. I hope the traffic engineering department is listening.

ROGER DANIHER

Tecumseh

Load-Date: December 18, 2002

End of Document

A victory against terrorism

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)
March 24, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A22; Letter

Length: 214 words

Body

Israel's targeted assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin is another great victory against terrorism. While European nations and the United Nations have been quick to condemn Israel's actions, they are overlooking the fact Yassin was a terrorist. The Gazette

Hamas, as well as other Palestinian Islamist groups, have claimed the lives of hundreds of Israelis and have indiscriminately targeted civilians, including women and children. As the spiritual leader of Hamas, Yassin did much to finance and sanction suicide bombings, and his death to Israel is as Osama bin Laden's would be to the United States.

The persistent double standard applied to Palestinian terrorist actions, and the legitimization of extremist groups (such as Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad) by Western nations must end. Palestinian extremists such as Hamas should not be given any diplomatic recognition or immunity

As Israel plans to disengage from the Gaza Strip, Yassin's assassination was an essential part in the eradication of terrorist infrastructure that will remain after a withdrawal. Hamas does not support a two-state solution and vows to continue its jihad.

The time has come for all Western democracies struggling to contain radical Islamism to show solidarity with Israel.

Peter Subissati

LaSalle

Graphic

Photo: Palestinians carry casket of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004

Attack on Afghanistan: Tehran remembers: Exhibition opens in former US embassy

The Guardian (London)

November 5, 2001

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 547 words

Byline: Jonathan Steele in Tehran

Body

Crowds of teenage girls, clad in black chadors and shouting anti-American slogans, marched past the old US embassy in Tehran yesterday to mark the 22nd anniversary of its storming by hardline students and Islamic revolutionary guards in 1979.

This year's "national day of fighting against global arrogance" was different. For the first time since the hostage seizure which kept 52 American diplomats captive for more than 14 months, the doors of the building dubbed "the nest of spies" were opened.

Crowds could wander upstairs past a ferocious steel door to the embassy's main floor and stroll through the ambassador's office as part of an exhibition organised by Iran's conservatives.

The embassy's architect may have had a premonition that the building would one day be a prison: it is an ugly two-storey red-brick structure whose main feature is barred windows.

In the US the 1979 hostage crisis caused a sea change in the national psyche, just as September 11 has. Supermarkets and public buildings kept a running calendar of the days since the diplomats were seized.

A rescue effort collapsed when a helicopter collided with a refuelling plane. Ronald Reagan exploited the debacle to paint the then president, Jimmy Carter, as a wimp. Remnants of that helicopter now stand in the embassy yard outside a pavilion given over to propaganda.

Today things are different. Iran sits with US diplomats as part of the six-plus-two forum on Afghanistan, consisting of the US, Russia, and Afghanistan's six neighbours. It also wants the US state department to take it off the blacklist of states which sponsor terrorism.

But looking at the secret rooms in the embassy yesterday was like opening a time capsule on the 1970s.

In a sign of the frantic effort mounted by diplomats to destroy secret documents before the embassy was overrun, an oil drum next to a vast shredder was full of powdered paper.

The highlight of the bizarre exhibition is the "glass room", a chamber made entirely of glass set inside a room lined with aluminium foil to thwart bugging devices. A waxwork of William Sullivan, the last US ambassador to Iran, sits at a table.

Attack on Afghanistan : Tehran remembers: Exhibition opens in former US embassy

Mr Sullivan's former office is hung with framed photographs of mosques captioned: "The mosques of Muslims in America - a shining star in a dark sky."

In the empty rooms the Iranians have mounted exhibitions celebrating movements which oppose Israel and US policy in the Middle East, including Islamic Jihad and **Hizbullah**.

The final room is devoted to the attack on Afghanistan. Pictures of ruined houses in Kandahar have the caption: "Result of bomb-drops of American and English fighters."

In spite of the ferocity of the messages, the mood at yesterday's demonstration was mild. The crowd of 5,000 was mainly made up of children allowed a morning off school, plus soldiers marching in ranks.

"Modern people should negotiate and see other people's point of view," said Sepideh Mardani, an art teacher who was only six when the embassy was seized. She was instructing her class of girls as they painted anti-American posters to hang on the old embassy's walls.

"The use of force in Afghanistan is OK, but not this way, killing **women** and children. The Taliban are killers but so is the United States, and what it's doing in Afghanistan is a mess."

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing

The Guardian (London)

May 7, 2003

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 7

Length: 521 words

Byline: Richard Norton-Taylor

Body

Israel has asked MI5 and the police to step up their operations against Islamist extremists after last week's suicide bombing by a British passport holder, but denied a report yesterday that it had sent Mossad agents to Britain.

Britain should adopt a "more cautious attitude" to those inciting people to commit attacks in Israel, an Israeli embassy spokeswoman said yesterday. She made it clear she meant that Israel wanted a less tolerant approach to individuals here and especially to certain Arabic websites.

One website, alsunnah.org, linked to the Centre of Islamic Studies in Birmingham, has been singled out. A spokesman for the centre said yesterday that accusations made against the centre were "baseless".

The Israeli embassy said yesterday's Daily Mail report that the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, had ordered Mossad to increase its operations in the UK was "not correct". Mossad agents had not visited Britain after the recent suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, it added.

A spokeswoman said the Israeli government had good relations with British agencies and would not presume to give recommendations to them.

British security sources are furious about suggestions that MI5 knew that the two men with British passports - Asif Mohammed Hanif and Omar Khan Sharif - were planning suicide bombings in Israel. Mr Sharif is still being hunted by the Israeli security services after his bomb failed to explode and he fled.

Even if, as alleged, individuals are known or suspected of having links with al-Muhajiroun, an extremist Islamist group that is high on rhetoric, it is difficult to discover their intentions, Whitehall sources say.

It is still not known when the two men decided to become suicide bombers, though it is believed that both crossed into Israel from a neighbouring country.

The security services are anxious to find out when the two men left Britain. It is known that Mr Sharif, and possibly Mr Hanif too, travelled to Syria, where they may have been persuaded and trained to carry out the attacks, possibly at camps run by Hizbullah or Hamas.

"Mossad is not allowed to do anything in Britain without the agreement of the government, and the security service in particular," a Whitehall source said yesterday.

Israel asks MI5 to step up checks after Britons suicide bombing

A five-man cell and two Israeli diplomats were expelled in 1988 by Margaret Thatcher after the conviction of Ismael Sowan for storing a Palestine Liberation Organisation arms cache in a flat in Hull. Mr Sowan was a Mossad agent and Britain's security services had not been informed of the operation against a leader of an extreme PLO group, Abdul Rahim Mustafa, who was hiding in England.

After the expulsion, Mossad transferred its European liaison base to Belgium.

The government was already angry about the abduction in 1986 by a **female** Mossad agent of Mordechai Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona, in the Negev desert.

He was drugged and taken back to Israel where he was sentenced to 18 years in jail for revealing that the country had secretly produced a cache of nuclear weapons. He has spent more than 11 years in solitary confinement.

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: May 7, 2003

End of Document

Israeli troops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 18, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P07A

Length: 969 words

Byline: Tamer Ziara The Associated Press

Body

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Israeli tanks cut off the Rafah refugee camp from the rest of Gaza Monday, sending panicked residents fleeing. Palestinians said an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at the camp hours later that killed three people.

Early Tuesday, Palestinian security officials said armored bulldozers moved to the edge of the camp near the border with Egypt and began leveling land in an Israeli-controlled zone. It wasn't clear if it was the start of a large-scale move against the camp.

Israel wants to widen a military patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border after Palestinians blew up an armored vehicle there last week, killing five soldiers assigned to destroy arms-smuggling tunnels.

The Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at the surrounded refugee camp, killing three people and wounding seven, one critically. Hospital officials said at least two of the dead were gunmen, but the wounded were civilians, including a 35-year-old woman.

The Israeli military said the target was a group of armed Palestinians approaching Israeli forces. Israel Radio has reported that troops were prepared to fight from house to house in the camp.

Frantic residents on Monday loaded belongings onto trucks and donkey carts and headed to the neighboring town, also named Rafah. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency set up shelters in schools and pitched a tent camp.

Women balanced mattresses on their heads, children carried blankets and men carted away sofas. One man lowered a cooking gas container by rope from a second-floor window, and another piled fire wood onto a horse cart.

Raouf Abu Jazar said dozens of people crowded his store, stocking up on rice, bottled water and baby food. "Many had no money to pay, but I gave them what they want, because we all are brothers," he said.

Last week, Israeli troops destroyed about 100 houses in the camp, and officials said hundreds more may be torn down. In all, more than 11,000 Palestinians in Rafah - out of a population of 90,000 - have been made homeless by Israeli demolitions since the outbreak of fighting in 2000.

At the United Nations in New York, Arab nations requested a Security Council meeting Tuesday to consider Israel's move against the camp.

Israeli troops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

The Arab Group called on members to take "necessary measures" against Israel for violating international law.

Palestinian militants planted bombs around Rafah, residents said. A 23-year-old Palestinian was killed early Tuesday when a bomb he was assembling exploded, they said.

Israeli security officials said they plan to expand the patrol road to a width of 250 yards, almost double its current size in some places. The army is also considering digging a deep trench, or even a moat, to block the tunnels that lead from Egypt to Rafah.

The Israeli patrol road was carved out in the 1980s after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

The international border created then went through the camp, and thousands of houses were destroyed on both sides to create the Israeli-controlled zone, with compensation paid to the displaced.

Yuval Dvir, an Israeli reserve colonel who oversaw that destruction, said Israel must leave Gaza now, and the plan to widen the patrol road would not enhance Israeli security. "We are following our guts and not our brains," he told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed a unilateral pullout of soldiers and settlers from Gaza, but his party rejected the plan. Officials said Monday that he would make minor revisions in the plan and present it to his Cabinet later.

A senior Israeli official said an eventual pullout would not stop Israeli operations like the move into the Rafah camp.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Israeli intelligence shows the Palestinians, supported by **Hezbollah** and Hamas abroad, are trying to create a situation in Gaza like the one in Lebanon, by bringing in long-range missiles.

Hezbollah guerrillas pounded Israel's north with Katyusha rockets for two decades in a guerrilla war that ended with Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon in 2000. **Hezbollah** is armed by Iran and Syria.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said civilian hardships are unintentional but unavoidable. Some people in Rafah, he said, "rent their houses for digging tunnels, so not all of the people there are blameless."

A senior Israeli military official said high-ranking Palestinian security officers are involved in arms smuggling.

Palestinian security officials were not immediately available for comment. Secretary of State Colin Powell denounced the destruction of houses, a rare U.S. criticism of Israeli policy.

On Monday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath pleaded with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Berlin to stop the Israeli offensive. Shaath told Rice he has received calls from fearful relatives.

"She (Rice) said that she and President Bush will act to stop what is going on in Rafah," Shaath said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, met Sunday with the Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, to discuss the Israeli operation.

"We understand Israel's need to defend itself from attacks, but as a matter of policy we oppose the use of home demolitions to achieve this end and we are concerned about the humanitarian consequences of such demolitions," said embassy spokesman Paul Patin.

Palestinian legislator Mohammed Hijazi said hundreds of families have left the camp since the exodus began Sunday; local officials put the number of evacuees at more than 2,000. UNRWA said Israel has demolished or damaged nearly 2,000 houses in Rafah since 2000.

Israeli troops cut off camp in Gaza Attack on homes, buildings in refugee camp leaves three Palestinians dead

Amr Moussa, Arab League secretary-general, condemned the destruction and charged that Israel's leaders are wrecking chances for peace. "Who would sit down with these people?" he asked.

Load-Date: May 18, 2004

End of Document

WORLD-WISE - THE WEEK'S BEST COMMENTARY

The Weekend Australian

October 2, 2004 Saturday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Editor; Pg. 26

Length: 1030 words

Body

NEGOTIATE OR ROT

CHARLES GLASS -- The Independent

CHARLES Glass, taken hostage by Hezbollah in Lebanon in 1987, slammed British Prime Minister Tony Blair for refusing to negotiate with Al-Tawhid wa Al-Jihad, holding contractor Ken Bigley in Iraq. "Negotiate is what you do when you want to save hostages' lives," he wrote in London's The Independent. "If not, you leave them to rot." The long-term solution to the kidnapping of Westerners in Iraq was as it had been in Lebanon: "The foreign armies should leave. Hezbollah stopped kidnapping foreigners in 1991. [This] took place against a background of Israel's withdrawal from most of Lebanon and the successful negotiations by the UN with Hezbollah's benefactors in Iran." In the short term, Britain could make secret contacts with the militants or their go-betweens. "The US could help all hostages and future hostages by committing itself to observe and enforce the Geneva Conventions on prisoners of war and call upon the insurgents to do the same. This would allow international oversight of prisoners on both sides. But that would mean recognising the insurgents as co-belligerents in a war that the US prefers to say is against no people at all -- only against an apparition called terror."

MATP

FLORIDA SETS A BAD EXAMPLE

JIMMY CARTER -- The Washington Post

SOME basic international requirements for a fair US election were missing in Florida, former president Jimmy Carter argued in The Washington Post. Namely, a nonpartisan electoral commission or official to take responsibility for organising and conducting the electoral process before, during and after the vote; and uniformity in voting procedures. In Florida in 2000, the top election official, Katharine Harris, was also co-chair of the Republican state campaign committee. Harris's successor, Glenda Hood, was also highly partisan towards the Republicans. Several thousand ballots of African Americans had been thrown out on technicalities in 2000, and an attempt had been made recently to disqualify 22,000 African Americans (likely Democrats), but only 61 Hispanics (likely Republicans), as alleged felons. "It is unconscionable to perpetuate fraudulent or biased electoral practices in any nation ... especially among us Americans, who have prided ourselves on setting a global example. With reforms unlikely at this late stage of the election, perhaps the only recourse will be to focus maximum public scrutiny on the suspicious process in Florida."

BIRD FLU VIRUS MORE LETHAL

ANDY HO -- The Straits Times

WORLD-WISE - THE WEEK'S BEST COMMENTARY

WORLD Health Organisation claims that the first human-to-human transmission of avian flu (H5N1) in Thailand was not a significant public health threat, were "another example of the world body downplaying risks during an epidemic", Andy Ho wrote in Singapore's The Straits Times. WHO focused on the "reassortment" method of viral evolution, whereby the virus had to swap one or more of its sets of genes with those of human flu virus. This had not happened yet. But H5N1 could also evolve rapidly through "re-combination", whereby a small portion of any of its genes could be swapped with any of the genes in the human flu virus or an animal flu virus. While the Thai situation did not signal a new mutation that would trigger a pandemic, as "re-combination proceeds, the bug's genetic instability is growing, increasing the number of species it can harm", including humans. Bird flu was now endemic in Asia and the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Organisation for Animal Health had called it "a crisis of global importance [and] a permanent threat to animal and human health". Animal and human health experts should join forces to fight it, given H5N1 had become more lethal. Some cases were now resistant to the most effective drugs available and the mortality rate was high; of Thailand's 15 cases this year, 10 had died.

THROWAWAY LINE HITS HOME

CHRISTOPHER CALDWELL -- The Weekly Standard

SELDOM had the course of European history been changed by a non-politician's throwaway remark in a German-language newspaper on a Wednesday in the dead of the summer doldrums, Christopher Caldwell told readers of The Weekly Standard. Princeton historian Bernard Lewis had told Hamburg's Die Welt that Europe would be Islamic by the end of the century. Europe had been talking about it ever since. Outgoing EU competition commissioner, Frits Bolkestein, had quoted Lewis, cautioning an audience at the University of Leiden that the EU would "implode" if it expanded too fast. All this as the community prepared to start the long process of admitting Turkey, and as a letter from outgoing EU agriculture commissioner Franz Fischler, warned "there remain doubts as to Turkey's long-term secular and democratic credentials". "Europe's reaction was a collective So now you tell us!" Caldwell wrote. With Lewis the issue arose only in passing in a wide-ranging discussion in which he said apart from the US, only China, India or Russia could be global players. "Europe," he said, "will be part of the Arabic West, of the Maghreb." Germany's most prominent Muslim moderate, Syrian-born Bassam Tibi, had added: "The problem is not whether the majority of Europeans is Islamic, but rather which Islam -- sharia Islam or Euro-Islam -- is to dominate in Europe."

SLOUCH BRINGS OUT THE BEST

SHELLY BRANCH -- The Wall Street Journal

LITHUANIAN model Dalia Dubrindyte, 17, wowed furrier J.Mendel executives when she donned its wares. They loved her height, beauty -- and her slouch. Creative director Kym Canter also loved her attitude: "I'm so beautiful, so rich, so bored. What's next?" Yes, Shelly Branch declared in The Wall Street Journal, the sultry slouch was the latest fashion accessory. "This isn't ugly slouching," executive vice-president of Ford Models Inc, Neal Hamil, said. "When it's done right, it's magnificent." Designer Tracy Reese liked its "modified, moving runway form", which gave "a cool silhouette" to the clothes. "The coat just hangs off the back, which is so groovy," she explained. A bastion against the new fashion was upmarket Denver boutique Andrisen Morton Women's. "Our customers wear their clothing respectfully," owner Dave Morton said.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

Cheney raps Arafat for role in terror: Comments hint U.S. may cut ties with Palestinian leader

The Ottawa Citizen

January 28, 2002 Monday

EARLY EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 531 words

Byline: Jim Bronskill

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney accused Yasser Arafat yesterday of conspiring with Iran to promote terrorism, the latest sign the White House may be prepared to sever ties with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Cheney said in a television interview that Mr. Arafat had shown a disturbing lack of commitment to advancing Mideast peace, implicating him in a recent terrorist arms shipment intercepted by Israel.

"It raises serious questions (as to) whether Mr. Arafat is in fact really interested in moving forward with the peace process," Mr. Cheney told the program Fox News Sunday.

The Ottawa Citizen

The vice-president's remarks came as the latest in a spate of suicide bombings in Jerusalem claimed the life of an Israeli man yesterday and injured more than 100 others.

Last Friday, U.S. President George W. Bush singled out Mr. Arafat for "enhancing terror" as the White House signaled a re-evaluation of its relationship with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Cheney stepped up the pressure, saying secret intelligence indicates Mr. Arafat, in connection with terrorist group Hezbollah, was involved in the ill-fated shipment of tonnes of military equipment, explosives and rockets to the Palestinian territories from Iran.

"The really disturbing part of this, of course, is that there are a lot of places he could go in the Arab world if he were looking for support and sustenance, or for help in moving the peace process forward," Mr. Cheney said.

"Clearly, he hasn't done that. What he's done is gone to a terrorist organization, Hezbollah, and a state that supports and promotes terrorism, that's dedicated to ending the peace process, Iran, and done business with them."

Mr. Cheney dismissed as "not credible" Mr. Arafat's statement he knew nothing of the arms shipment.

He added that Anthony Zinni, U.S. envoy to the region, would not return to the Middle East until Mr. Arafat takes effective steps to rein in Palestinian militants.

Cheney raps Arafat for role in terror: Comments hint U.S. may cut ties with Palestinian leader

"He has to fulfil his commitments," Mr. Cheney said. "He's got to exercise his responsibility to control the terrorist attacks."

The vice-president was vague on the question of whether the U.S. had given Mr. Arafat a deadline, but revealed Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken with him in the last couple of days.

"We've been very clear in our communications with Mr. Arafat. He knows what he has to do to be taken seriously."

Republican Senator Trent Lott said he believes the Bush administration is seriously looking at cutting ties with Mr. Arafat.

"They may actually decide they've got to move on beyond him. He has become irrelevant, not to mention irresponsible in his conduct," Mr. Lott told the television program.

"The question is, if not Arafat, who? And how can we get the Middle East situation back in a posture where the terrorism, the killing can stop and we can find a way to get back to peace? But it seems that Arafat has taken himself out of that equation."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, warned the Americans that "any decision to cut ties with the Palestine National Authority and its president, Yasser Arafat, will cause an earthquake in the region, which nobody will able to confront."

Graphic

Photo: Ahikam Seri, The Associated Press ; Israeli medics, assist a wounded woman from the site of a suicide bombing in, downtown Jerusalem yesterday. The attack on the 'Street of the, Bombers' came just a few metres away from the site of a gunman's, attack last Tuesday that killed two elderly women.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON ISRAEL

Daily News (New York)

January 29, 2002, Tuesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMN,OPINION

Length: 614 words

Byline: BY RICHARD CHESNOFF

Body

The use of **female** suicide bombers is a frightening new twist in the already twisted Palestinian war of terror against Israel. Yasser Arafat may not have personally chosen the young woman who blew herself up on Jerusalem's Jaffa St. on Sunday, killing one person and maiming scores of innocents. But Arafat is responsible for almost every other atrocity of the 15-month-old intifadeh.

As if Arafat weren't doing enough to destroy Mideast peace on his own, he is getting increasing help from two of the region's worst troublemakers: Iran and Syria.

Iran's mullahs have been long sworn to scuttle the peace process. Together with their Lebanese-based **Hezbollah** stooges, they were knee-deep in the recently thwarted attempt to smuggle a shipload of arms to Arafat's terrorist armies.

And although Syria has no great love for Arafat, it has always been a place for Palestinian extremists and has become increasingly attractive to the Islamic fanatics who are behind the bloody campaign of suicide bombings in Israeli cities.

The White House is furious with Arafat for not stopping the bloodshed. But even if the increasingly isolated Palestinian leader cracked down on the terror gangs, as he endlessly promises to do, Islamic terrorist organizations - and Arafat's own Fatah extremists - would probably just relocate to Syria.

In fact, the fix is already in. According to reliable Mideast intelligence sources, Hamas senior operatives asked for a promise of asylum during a secret meeting on Dec. 3 with Syria's vice president, Abdel-Halim Khaddam.

The Hamas leaders, who included Khaled Masha'l, the foreign emissary, reportedly told Khaddam that they fear international pressure may force Arafat to drop his revolving-door policy of arresting and later releasing Hamas operatives.

Now, said the Hamas leaders, Arafat may feel compelled to take "serious action" - which in reality will mean letting Hamas chiefs (and, reportedly, Islamic Jihad activists) flee to Syria with the help of the Lebanese-based **Hezbollah**. Among the candidates for Syrian asylum: Salah Shehade, head of Hamas' Gaza operations, and Adnan al-Ghoul, a senior member of Hamas' Izzedine al Qassam military battalion.

IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON ISRAEL

Masha'l reportedly requested an urgent meeting with Syria's president, Bashar Assad. Although Khaddam promised to recommend that Assad consider the request positively, he stressed that Syria is "under heavy pressure" on terrorism. Nonetheless, he added, Syria "could not sit idly by in these times."

Syria is already home to any number of extremist and terrorist organizations, including Turkey's murderous Kurdish separatists and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, an organization that has been linked to the downing of Pan Am Flight 103.

To be sure, Syria was among the first to announce that it was joining President Bush's global coalition against terrorism. And surprisingly, given its dismal record, Syria is a member of the United Nations Security Council. But Assad, like his late father, doesn't consider Palestinian terrorists to be terrorists.

Neither does Iran. In the mind of Tehran's leaders, people like that woman in Jerusalem who self-detonate and kill innocent shoppers and children are martyred resistance fighters. The Iranians, who are busily developing nuclear weapons, also are stirring up trouble in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Bush administration has been trying to revive the Mideast peace process. Meanwhile, some officials have sought to warm up U.S. relations with Iran and Syria. There is an impossible conflict between these two goals. The administration must have no illusions about both nations' treacherous mischief-making.

E-mail: rzc@att.net

Graphic

AP An injured victim of Sunday's terror bombing in Jerusalem.

Load-Date: January 29, 2002

After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 2, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 624 words

Byline: Mark Lavie ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli leaders warned Syria yesterday that it bears the blame for two suicide bombings by Hamas operatives because it harbors the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's blasts, which killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. However, Israel was looking further afield to assign the blame.

"The fact that Hamas is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The overall leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria. Israel assassinated Hamas' founder and his successor in Gaza this year, throwing the group into temporary disarray. But major decisions are made by Mashaal, not by Hamas leaders in Gaza.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said yesterday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another extremist group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital. A day earlier, a female suicide bomber had blown up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Although Israel and Syria are bitter enemies, the air strike was a rare act of violence. Israel has held the Syrian government partly responsible for years of Hezbollah raids from southern Lebanon and has often threatened Syria. In practice, however, the Israelis hesitate to provoke a conflict with Syria, and their border has been calm for decades.

After deadly blasts, Israel warns Syria

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel would go after local Hamas leaders and step up military patrols in the sparsely populated, barren southern part of the West Bank. The target of Tuesday's bombings was Beersheba, 15 miles south of the West Bank.

Sharon also pledged to finish the West Bank security barrier, which is aimed at keeping Palestinian suicide bombers from getting into Israel but has drawn international criticism. Palestinians object that it cuts into their territory and separates tens of thousands from farmland, hospitals and services.

"The fence will be completed according to the cabinet decision, and we are doing all we can to speed up the process as much as possible," Sharon said.

Israel did not impose travel bans across the West Bank in response to the bombings, as it has after previous attacks. Such blanket restrictions proved relatively ineffective in preventing attacks and mostly fueled more resentment against Israel. Israeli security forces are relying increasingly on pinpoint attacks on militant leaders, mass arrests and a network of informers.

Security officials said there was concern that a rash of Palestinian attacks could sabotage Sharon's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in 2005. Hard-liners have argued a pullback would make it easier for Palestinians to attack Israel.

Also yesterday, an Israeli helicopter fired three missiles into a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Gaza, wounding at least five people, residents and hospital officials said.

The residents said the aircraft targeted militant Palestinians at the edge of the Khan Younis camp who were planting a land mine as Israeli soldiers advanced. Israeli military officials said on condition of anonymity that the army was conducting an operation to crack down on Palestinian extremists in the area.

Graphic

PHOTO;

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN, Associated Press

On the first day of school, Palestinian students and residents cross the separation barrier into Jerusalem under the gaze of Israeli guards.

Load-Date: August 31, 2005

World datelines

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

March 1, 2003, Saturday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 612 words

Byline: Compiled from Deseret News wire services

Body

Britain

LONDON -- Two women who gave birth using sperm from their dead husbands claimed a crucial victory Friday in the legal battle to have their deceased partners recognized as the fathers of the children. Current legislation states that if a man's sperm or an embryo created after his death is used in a pregnancy, he is not legally the father of the child.

LONDON -- Stung by criticism that its food is laden with fat and salt, McDonald's said Friday its British restaurants will be the first in the world to sell fresh fruit. Starting in April, grapes and sliced apples will be sold in 2.3-ounce bags for 95 cents, the company said.

Burundi

BUJUMBURA -- A human rights group on Friday accused Burundi's army of killing dozens of civilians, raping women and burning and looting hundreds of houses last month, even after signing a cease-fire with rebels to end the central African nation's 9 1/2-year civil war.

China

BEIJING -- Thousands of tents arrived Friday for Chinese earthquake victims who had been forced to sleep outdoors in freezing temperatures, relief officials said.

Cuba

HAVANA -- Runway models wore earth-toned fabric and gigantic hats resembling tobacco leaves as Cuba's annual cigar festival hosted a celebration of high fashion inspired by this island's famed tobacco business.

Cyprus

NICOSIA -- Tassos Papadopoulos took office as the fifth Greek Cypriot president Friday, pledging to strive for the reunification of this war-divided Mediterranean island.

Czech Republic

World datelines

PRAGUE -- Czech lawmakers elected opposition candidate Vaclav Klaus as president on Friday, succeeding former president and longtime rival Vaclav Havel.

France

PARIS -- Returning to the land he once fought to keep for France, President Jacques Chirac visits Algeria this weekend to reinvigorate ties and show support for the North African nation's struggle to end a decade of massacres by Islamic militants.

SAULIEU -- French culinary masters joined hundreds of people who turned out Friday for the funeral of Bernard Loiseau, the chef whose suicide shocked France and the gastronomic world.

Germany

BERLIN -- Stuttgart prosecutors are investigating eight former members of the Nazi SS for possible murder charges in the 1944 execution of more than 560 people in the Italian village of Sant'Anna di Stazzema, officials said Friday.

Ireland

DUBLIN -- The Irish government proposed a bill Friday to restrict the public's right to see government papers, a move opposition politicians decried as an effort to safeguard the prime minister's hold on power.

Lebanon

BEIRUT -- A top security official of the militant Hezbollah group was fatally shot at his home in the Lebanese capital, Lebanese and Hezbollah officials said Friday.

Netherlands

THE HAGUE -- The U.N. war crimes court Friday withdrew charges against an ethnic Albanian arrested in Kosovo for allegedly murdering Serb prisoners and released him, saying that he could be a victim of mistaken identity.

Poland

WARSAW -- An appeals court on Friday overturned an acquittal and ordered a third trial for 22 former police officers in the 1981 shooting deaths of nine miners protesting a communist crackdown on the Solidarity movement.

Romania

BUCHAREST -- The government has again extended a ban on foreign adoptions of Romanian children -- this time until June 1.

Yemen

SAN'A -- The British Embassy in Yemen closed indefinitely Friday and advised its citizens to leave the country, fearing terror attacks sparked by the Iraqi crisis, an embassy diplomat said.

Zimbabwe

HARARE -- Twenty church pastors marching to protest what they called state-orchestrated political violence were arrested Friday and held for eight hours, witnesses and protest organizers said.

Load-Date: March 1, 2003

Cheney hints ties to Arafat will be cut: Vice-president accuses leader of conspiring with Iran

The Ottawa Citizen

January 28, 2002 Monday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 532 words

Byline: Jim Bronskill

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney accused Yasser Arafat yesterday of conspiring with Iran to promote terrorism, the latest sign the White House may be prepared to sever ties with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Cheney said in a television interview that Mr. Arafat had shown a disturbing lack of commitment to advancing Mideast peace, implicating him in a recent terrorist arms shipment intercepted by Israel.

"It raises serious questions (as to) whether Mr. Arafat is in fact really interested in moving forward with the peace process," Mr. Cheney told the program Fox News Sunday.

The Ottawa Citizen

The vice-president's remarks came as the latest in a spate of suicide bombings in Jerusalem claimed the life of an Israeli man yesterday and injured more than 100 others.

Last Friday, U.S. President George W. Bush singled out Mr. Arafat for "enhancing terror" as the White House signalled a re-evaluation of its relationship with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Cheney stepped up the pressure, saying secret intelligence indicates Mr. Arafat, in connection with terrorist group Hezbollah, was involved in the ill-fated shipment of tonnes of military equipment, explosives and rockets to the Palestinian territories from Iran.

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"Clearly, he hasn't done that. What he's done is gone to a terrorist organization, Hezbollah, and a state that supports and promotes terrorism, that's dedicated to ending the peace process, Iran, and done business with them."

Mr. Cheney dismissed as "not credible" Mr. Arafat's statement he knew nothing of the arms shipment.

He added that Anthony Zinni, U.S. envoy to the region, would not return to the Middle East until Mr. Arafat takes effective steps to rein in Palestinian militants.

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"He has to fulfil his commitments," Mr. Cheney said. "He's got to exercise his responsibility to control the terrorist attacks."

The vice-president was vague on the question of whether the U.S. had given Mr. Arafat a deadline, but revealed Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken with him in the last couple of days.

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Republican Senator Trent Lott said he believes the Bush administration is seriously looking at cutting ties with Mr. Arafat.

"They may actually decide they've got to move on beyond him. He has become irrelevant, not to mention irresponsible in his conduct," Mr. Lott told the television program.

"The question is, if not Arafat, who? And how can we get the Middle East situation back in a posture where the terrorism, the killing can stop and we can find a way to get back to peace? But it seems that Arafat has taken himself out of that equation."

Mr. Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, warned the Americans that "any decision to cut ties with the Palestine National Authority and its president, Yasser Arafat, will cause an earthquake in the region, which nobody will able to confront."

Graphic

Photo: Ahikam Seri, The Associated Press ; Israeli medics, assist a wounded woman from the site of a suicide bombing in, downtown Jerusalem yesterday. The attack on the 'Street of the, Bombers' came just a few metres away from the site of a gunman's, attack last Tuesday that killed two elderly women.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better

Ottawa Citizen

April 2, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A14; Editorial

Length: 591 words

Body

As each day dawns, it seems inevitable that another Palestinian terrorist will strap a bomb to his or her body and seek out civilians -- Jews and non-Jews alike -- to kill or maim. Just as inevitable are demands that Israel not retaliate against these murderous attacks, as if inaction would somehow stop the killings. That is utter nonsense. The Ottawa Citizen

The suicide bombers who are terrorizing Israel and the West Bank are controlled, trained, supported and incited by radical Palestinian, Arab and other groups bent on destroying the Jewish state. These groups, including segments of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, of Hamas and of Hezbollah (and their state-sponsors, Iran and Syria among them), do not want peace between Israelis and Palestinians. They will not regard kind gestures by Israel as anything but an excuse to step up their attacks.

That is why Israel was right on the weekend to declare "war" on terrorism and move to destroy terrorism's infrastructure. Middle East peace cannot be achieved until those who advocate terror are no longer able to use it.

That does not mean Israel must destroy all its enemies, but it must weaken them enough to make them deal, and that means striking a severe blow. Yet it is a measure of Israel's desire for a negotiated rather than a military settlement that it has exercised so much restraint -- even during its current exercise.

The Israeli Defence Force's siege of Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah shows, for example, that Israel could, if it wished, kill the Palestinian leader. Instead, it permitted peace activists to meet him. Its tanks now on the streets of several West Bank cities could unleash total destruction; instead, the army's actions are targeted ones, aimed not at innocent women and children but at terrorists or those harbouring them.

Israel cannot remain idle in the face of relentless suicide bombings any more than the Canadian or American governments can when brutal attacks occur on our soil. (Anyone watching the first part of Trudeau on CBC Sunday night will recall how swiftly the prime minister suspended civil rights here under what, compared to Mideast standards, was small provocation. In the last four weeks alone, several dozen Israelis have been killed by suicide bombers). Israel's enemies must be taught to accept that it will exert its right to exist.

Thus, the suggestion that the Uni-ted States pressure Israel to pull back is misguided: The Americans now should let Israel do what it must. U.S. influence would be better directed at those states that sponsor terrorist groups, that have supplied Mr. Arafat with weapons and cash, and that have helped teach terrorist tactics to Hamas and Hezbollah "martyrs." Each and every suicide bomber is supported, trained and equipped by networks of terrorists who, in turn, are protected by several of Israel's neighbours.

Let Israel act: It has a right to exist. The sooner its enemies learn this, the better

Those networks must be destroyed or weakened. While Israel focuses on the fight at hand, its friends can insist nearby governments stop their mischief. And, longer term, western nations should be pressing for fundamental rights and democratic practices in other Middle East states. Prosperity and freedom at home may one day create more Arab leaders disinclined to side with terrorism.

Peace between Palestinians and Israelis is not impossible, as Israel's normalization of relations with Egypt and Jordan demonstrates.

The most dangerous obstacle to Middle East peace now is the belief that nations may not take action to trounce terrorism but must passively endure it.

Load-Date: April 2, 2002

End of Document

B'nai Brith sues feds over Hezbollah

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

November 29, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A11

Length: 186 words

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

B'nai Brith Canada plans to take the federal government to court for refusing to designate the Islamic militant organization, Hezbollah, as a terrorist group.

"Our government is being very lax and irresponsible in not including Hezbollah on the list of terrorist organizations," said Rochelle Wilner, president of the Jewish advocacy group.

Ottawa Citizen

"There's no excuse. This notion that there's a social-welfare arm and a military arm or wing is absolutely ludicrous," she said. "It is a terror organization. ... They hide behind women and children. They raise money hiding behind this notion of social welfare."

B'nai Brith's action comes two days after Ottawa announced it is adding five groups to the list of terrorist organizations whose activities are banned under the country's new anti-terror law.

Hezbollah, formed almost 20 years ago and dedicated to the destruction to Israel, was not.

Security experts, as well as the Canadian Alliance, say no credible line can be drawn between the group's terrorist activities and its social programs. Hezbollah has been branded a terrorist group by the United States.

Load-Date: November 29, 2002

Anti-Syrian demonstration the biggest yet in Lebanon

The Guardian (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)

March 15, 2005 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. B6

Length: 224 words

Byline: AP

Body

Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence" and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut Monday, the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men, women and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut, responding to an opposition call to demonstrate for removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

"We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to demand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who travelled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon.

The assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri one month ago sparked the string of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. - the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Monday's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hundreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim guerrilla group Hezbollah. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal continued Monday, as intelligence agents closed two offices.

Load-Date: March 15, 2005

IRAQ GOVERNING COUNCIL

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 14, 2003 Monday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 252 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

The members of the Iraq Governing Council that held its inaugural meeting Sunday. The council has 13 Shiites, five Kurds, five Sunnis, one Christian and one Turkman, including three women. Shiites make up about 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million people, but they have never ruled the country.

Ahmad Chalabi, founder of Iraqi National Congress, Shiite

Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, a leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution, Shiite

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Dawa Islamic Party, Shiite

Naseer al-Chaderchi, National Democratic Party, Sunni

Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Sunni Kurd

Massoud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party, Sunni Kurd

Iyad Allawi, leader of the Iraqi National Accord, Shiite

Ahmed al-Barak, human rights activist, Shiite

Adnan Pachachi, former foreign minister, Sunni

Aqila al-Hashimi, female, foreign affairs expert, Shiite

Raja Habib al-Khuzai, female, maternity hospital director in south, Shiite

Hamid Majid Moussa, Communist Party, Shiite

Mohammed Bahr al-Uloum, cleric from Najaf, Shiite

Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, northern tribal chief, Sunni

Mohsen Abdel Hamid, Iraqi Islamic Party, Sunni

Samir Shakir Mahmoud, Sunni

Mahmoud Othman, Sunni Kurd

IRAQ GOVERNING COUNCIL

Salaheddine Bahaaeddine, Kurdistan Islamic Union, Sunni Kurd

Younadem Kana, Assyrian Christian

Mouwafak al-Rabii, Shiite

Dara Noor Alzin, judge

Sondul Chapouk, **female**, Turkman

Wael Abdul Latif, Basra governor, Shiite

Abdel-Karim Mahmoud al-Mohammedawi, member of Iraqi political party **Hezbollah**, Shiite

Abdel-Zahraa Othman Mohammed, Dawa Party, Shiite

Load-Date: July 14, 2003

End of Document

In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

The International Herald Tribune

March 7, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1493 words

Byline: Neil Macfarquhar

Dateline: CAIRO:

Body

The leaders of about half of Egypt's rickety opposition parties sat down for one of their regular meetings under completely irregular circumstances. In the previous few days, President Hosni Mubarak had opened presidential elections to more than one candidate, and street demonstrators had helped topple Lebanon's government.

The mood around the table in a battered downtown Cairo office last week veered between humor and trepidation, participants said, as they faced the daunting prospect of fielding presidential candidates in just 75 days. "This is all totally new, and nobody is ready," said Mahmoud Abaza, the deputy leader of the Wafd Party, one of Egypt's few viable opposition groups. "Sometimes, even if you don't know how to swim, you just have to dive into the water and manage. Political life will change fundamentally."

The entire Middle East seems to be entering uncharted political and social territory with a similar mixture of anticipation and dread.

The New York Times

Events in Lebanon and Egypt, following closely on a limited vote for municipal councils in Saudi Arabia and landmark elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories, have all combined to give the sense, however tentative, that twilight might be descending on authoritarian Arab government.

A combination of outside pressure and internal shifts has merged to create this moment. Arabs of a younger, more savvy generation appear more willing to take their dissatisfaction directly to the front stoop of repressive leaders.

They have been spurred by the rise of new technology, especially uncensored satellite television, which prevents Arab governments from hiding what is happening on their own streets. The Internet and mobile phones have also been deployed to erode government censorship and help activists mobilize in ways previous generations never could.

Another important factor, pressure from the Bush administration, emboldens demonstrators, who believe that their governments will be more hesitant to act against them with Washington linking its security to greater freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks. Washington says it will no longer support repressive governments, and young Arabs, while hardly enamored of U.S. policy in the region, want to test that promise.

Egypt's tiny opposition movement called Kifaya, or "Enough" in Arabic, in reference to Mubarak's 24-year tenure has drawn attention across the region, even if the police easily outnumber the few hundred demonstrators who

In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

gather periodically outside courthouses or syndicate offices to bellow their trademark slogan. Before, protesters used to exploit solidarity demonstrations with the Palestinians to shout a few abusive slogans against Mubarak.

Suddenly, they are beaming their frustration right at him.

"Everything happening is taking place in one context, the bankruptcy of the authoritarian regimes and their rejection by the Arab people," said Michel Kilo, a political activist in Damascus.

"Democracy is being born, and the current authoritarianism is dying."

Even so, the changes wrought in each individual country thus far appear minor and as yet tentative, even if the idea of challenging authoritarian rule more directly is remarkably new.

In Egypt, everyone expects Mubarak to win another six-year term this fall. Old rules against basic freedoms like the right to assemble remain unaltered.

The Saud clan in Saudi Arabia has not ceded any real power in letting men, but not women, vote for only half the members of the country's nearly 200 councils. "Congratulations and More Power," reads a computer printout that staff members hung on the wall of the office of Tarek al-Kasabi, the chairman of a prominent Riyadh hospital, after he won one of seven City Council seats.

"People want to enlarge the decision-making process, which is a good and healthy thing," said Kasabi, a civil engineer by training, noting that he would rather move slowly than see the country destabilized. "We know how to reform better than anyone else. It is our life; nobody from outside can dictate how we live."

In Lebanon, young demonstrators with gelled hair or bare midriffs serve as an unlikely model for popular uprisings across the Arab world, especially since their goals do not quite apply elsewhere.

They seek to rid themselves of an outside power, Syria. They also were galvanized into collective action by a horrific one-time event.

The assassination on Feb. 14 of a former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, removed a real estate tycoon turned politician who embodied all the country's hopes for rebuilding after the civil war, which lasted from 1975 to 1990.

"If someone like Hariri can be assassinated, it means anyone in the country can be killed," Doreen Khoury, a 26-year-old student getting her master's degree in political science, said as she sat at the entrance to a small green pup tent downtown. The voice of Fayrouz, the country's most famous diva, boomed over a loudspeaker in the background, singing an ode to Lebanon.

Khoury and a colleague, Noura Mourad, have been camping for two weeks in the carnival-like tent city that sprang up spontaneously on Martyrs' Square, once the throbbing heart of this city and now largely sandy lots. Most demonstrators were not even born when the war destroyed it, but they know they want something different.

"This is something unknown for the Arab world it is pacifist, it is democratic and it is spontaneous," said Mourad, 24. The women, drawn by Hariri's funeral, said they were tired of the problems brought by Syria's appointing everyone in the country, from every building concierge to the president.

Taken together, events in Cairo, Riyadh, Beirut and beyond are the first taste of something new, and the participants are bound to thirst for more.

"The general atmosphere awaits big political and social change," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi commentator with his own talk show on Dubai television. "There will have to be some sort of dialogue between the regimes and the people, or there will be confrontation, but things will not remain as they are."

Arabs differ on the degree to which U.S. influence helped foster the changed mood, but there is no doubt that pressure from the Bush administration played some role.

In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

Iraq, however, serves more as a threat than a model. Although many Arabs were impressed by the zeal with which Iraqis turned out to vote on Jan. 30, the country remains a synonym for frightening, violent chaos.

"When you are a Syrian, or an Egyptian or a Saudi and you see what happened to Iraqi society over the past two years, you wonder if democracy deserves such instability and such a sacrifice of people," said Ghassan Salame, a former Lebanese cabinet minister.

The changes started long before the American military overthrew Saddam Hussein, even if the 1990s were marked by many false starts.

Parliamentary elections in Jordan, Yemen and Morocco, for example, did not dilute the power of their authoritarian rulers. As a result, many soured on the idea of democracy.

New technology has driven the steps toward greater freedoms. Satellite stations like Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya brought news of demonstrations to a widening audience. Indeed, the crowds in Beirut swelled in part because potential demonstrators could see that government troops had not opened fire. Months earlier, Arabs watched similar events unfold in Ukraine, and some wondered why the Arab world should stand apart.

But undoubtedly the most important new element is the spontaneous involvement of people themselves.

"You need democrats to produce democracy, you can't produce it through institutions," Salame said. "You need people to fight for it to make it real. Neither American tanks or domestic institutions can do it. You need democrats. In Beirut, you have a hard core of 10,000 to 15,000 youngsters who are democrats and who are imposing the tempo."

Support for them or what they have achieved is far from universal, either at home or abroad, however, and may yet limit what the demonstrators achieve.

Inside Lebanon, important domestic forces like the Syrian-backed Hezbollah, the most powerful Shiite organization, have yet to commit to the goal of ending Syrian dominance.

"Shiites are not comfortable with joining the opposition because they would be indirectly supporting U.S. policy in the region," said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an expert on Hezbollah at the Lebanese American University.

UN Security Council Resolution 1559, which the United States and France pushed through to make the demand for a Syrian withdrawal an international one, also stipulates disarming Hezbollah. The group is faced with an intense problem. Hezbollah remains popular among all Lebanese for ending the Israeli occupation of the south, but that popularity might fade if it backs Syria's continued presence.

The U.S. campaign for democracy in the Middle East is viewed by many nationalists and Islamists as a conspiracy to weaken the Arabs.

*

Mona el-Naggar contributed reporting for this article.

Load-Date: March 7, 2005

Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

Sunday Times (London)

July 31, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; News; 16

Length: 1021 words

Byline: Yuba Bessaoud

Body

The deadly tactic has been used for a long time but has never been more effective than today, writes Yuba Bessaoud

The use of suicide attacks in conflict dates back to at least 2,000 years ago but the savage wave of bombings that has hit the Middle East, America and much of Europe in the past five years is the worst that the world has known.

Since the twin towers of the World Trade Center were brought down by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, scores of suicide attacks across the globe have killed more than 4,400 people.

According to a study by Robert Pape, associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago, the monthly toll of attacks has been steadily escalating and shows no sign of abating.

In his book, *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, Pape challenges the assumption that there is a finite pool of terrorists willing to sacrifice themselves in suicide bombings. Such attacks, he argues, are an efficient means for small terrorist organisations to deliver a large and well targeted punch and have proved successful in meeting such groups' strategic aims.

"Suicide attacks have risen from an average of three per year in the 1980s to about 10 per year in the 1990s to nearly 50 in 2003," he said.

"Worse, suicide terrorism has become the most deadly form of terrorism. Suicide attacks amounted to just 3% of all terrorist incidents from 1980 through to 2003 but accounted for 48% of all fatalities -even if the losses of 9/11 (in which nearly 3,000 people died) are not counted."

The history of suicide assaults dates back to Judaea in the 1st century when Jewish Zealots, an extreme resistance sect, would sacrifice themselves by mounting individual attacks on Roman soldiers with knives. Although documentation is scarce, the Zealots were hundreds strong and committed "numerous daily murders".

Their actions culminated in the Jewish war of AD66 which ultimately brought about the exodus of the Jews from the region.

One thousand years later in northern Iran, the Hashshashin, or Assassins, used suicide attacks to deter neighbouring sultans in Persia and Iraq from invading.

The strategy continued until the mid-13th century when the Hashshashin were wiped out by the Mongols.

Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

The next big wave of suicide attacks came during the second world war when the Japanese, forced on to the defensive by the Americans in 1944, sent the first kamikaze planes against the US navy. More than 30 ships were sunk and thousands of US military personnel were killed or wounded.

Sporadic suicide attacks were launched by the communists in the Vietnam war but, according to Pape, no significant sect of suicide attackers developed after the kamikaze until the early 1980s.

"In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon with 17,000 men, tanks and heavy artillery," said Pape. "A month later Hezbollah was born and in November of the same year it began to experiment with suicide bombings. The truck bombing of a US marine barracks in Beirut killed 241 Americans. From Hezbollah's perspective it forced Ronald Reagan to withdraw all military forces from Lebanon."

The perceived strategic success of Hezbollah's attack made other terrorist organisations take note. The Marxist-Hindu Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka became the most prolific suicide bombers in the 1980s and 1990s, launching more than 143 individual attacks which killed 900 people, including Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister.

In recent years it has been Islamic terrorist organisations that have led the suicide charge. There have been more than 160 attacks launched in Israel, a further 21 that Pape says can be directly linked to Al-Qaeda and, since 2003 according to different sources -between 150 and 400 in Iraq.

With history showing that suicide killing has been adopted by a diverse range of secular and religious groups, the question of what drives suicide sects is being studied by psychologists.

Sharon Attia, of the London School of Economics, says that while individual suicide bombers may come from all walks of life they do exhibit some common traits.

"At first (in the Middle East) it was single, uneducated men, then educated men.

Then women and children," she said. "The common thing is that there is an issue of low self-esteem. It could be a family respect issue, it could be that people feel deprived or their self-esteem is very low for personal reasons."

Attia says the cultures from which suicide bombers are drawn also show similarities. "It usually occurs in collectivistic societies; societies where the interests of the group are seen as much more important than the individuals."

Others argue that terrorist organisations which launch suicide attacks are best understood by analysing them in the same way that experts tackle cults. Secular or religious, all display similar peculiarities.

Ian Howarth, of the Cult Information Centre, said that Al-Qaeda showed some parallels with organisations such as the Branch Davidians, who had sparked the Waco massacre in Texas in 1993: "A messianic and self-appointed leader; the use of psychological coercion; the creation of an insular and elitist environment; the idea that ends justify means; and a tendency to gather wealth at the top are common to all."

Howarth noted that non- terrorist cults can also be suicidal. In the Jonestown massacre of 1978, more than 900 members of the People's Temple cult killed themselves with poison on the demand of their leader.

Howarth added that it was possible to talk cult members out of their mindset. Most experts would seek to isolate individuals from the cult leader and other members and reason with them over a prolonged period. "You have to bring out what is happening behind the scenes and make it clear to them," he said.

"For example, they might believe the leader is full of peace and love and not making a penny out of it, but if you can expose the Swiss bank accounts and the limousines you may be able to turn them. It's a long process."

SUICIDE ATTACKS

British civilian fatalities since 2001

Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

New York 67

London 45 (and 11 foreign nationals)

Turkey 4

Iraq 5

Egypt 3 (confirmed)

Qatar 1

Saudi Arabia 1

Total: 126

Graphic

Focus

Load-Date: August 1, 2005

End of Document

Israel blames Syria for 2 suicide bombing attacks; Israeli leader warns of 'additional steps' for harboring leadership of the Hamas militant group

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. b6

Length: 222 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli leaders warned Syria on Wednesday that it bears the blame for a double suicide bombing by Hamas militants because it harbors the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's attack that killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. But Israel was looking farther afield to assign blame.

"The fact that Hamas is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The overall leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said Wednesday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another militant group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital, a day after a female suicide bomber blew up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004

There's little U.S. can do to stop regional Mideast meltdown Analysis

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

April 03, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 1033 words

Byline: Tim Collie South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Body

How much worse can it get? A lot.

Over the last 16 months Israel has lost more than 400 men, women and children to stabbings, shootings and suicide bombings - the most concentrated period of violence in its 52-year history. The Palestinians have lost three times that number to Israeli military operations, out of a much smaller population.

But the conflict now underway is far more than just another brutal civil war like Colombia's or the troubles in Northern Ireland. Left unchecked, it has the potential to inflame the Middle East, ripple through Europe and Asia and seriously hinder the U.S. war on global terrorism, according to analysts.

That said, experts on the region could offer few suggestions as to what the Bush administration could do in the short term to prevent the violence from spreading throughout the region and bring both sides back to the peace table. With Israel on a full war footing and the Palestinian groups mounting daily suicide attacks, the U.S. may find itself busy simply managing the spillover throughout the region.

"The worst-case scenario is a regional meltdown," said Magnus Ranstorp, an expert on the Middle East at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence in Scotland. "It's not a question of if but when the United States mounts operations against Iraq. And with this going on, Saddam Hussein could easily do what he did in 1991 - send missiles into Israel. But I don't think the Israelis could just sit back and let that happen again.

"Throughout the region you've got so much poverty, discontent and rage, and that means more terrorism, and more directed at the United States, Israel's ally," said Ranstorp. On Monday, one day after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that his country was at war against the forces of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, there were indications of unrest in the Middle East region and elsewhere.

In Egypt, hundreds of protesters calling for the closing of the Israeli Embassy clashed with riot police. In Yemen, more than 200 journalists gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy in San'a carrying pictures of Arafat. They handed an embassy official a letter accusing the United States of bias toward Israel.

In Jordan, about 300 protesters, mostly women, staged a candlelit march on the U.S. Embassy in Amman, where they called on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to intervene. "Beloved Saddam, strike at Tel Aviv," the protesters chanted in front of a line of police before the embassy.

There's little U.S. can do to stop regional Mideast meltdown Analysis

In Asia meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad asked representatives of 57 Islamic nations attending a conference on terrorism to condemn any attack on civilians as an act of terror. The audience of foreign ministers and other dignitaries was divided.

But top Islamic clerics in both Egypt and Lebanon - moderate Arab countries - endorsed suicide attacks as legitimate resistance by Palestinians fighting Israeli occupation. Ahmed al-Tayyeb, Egypt's official Mufti responsible for issuing Islamic rulings, said in remarks published Monday that suicide attacks against Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were "one of the highest forms of martyrdom." Lebanon's most respected Shi'ite Muslim cleric, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, gave his blessing to female suicide bombers, calling them authors of a "new, glorious history for Arab and Muslim women."

This call to jihad has an avid audience in a region blighted by decades of corruption, despotism and warfare. The countries closest to Israel - Egypt, Jordan and Syria - are resource-poor nations plagued by poverty, unemployment and large populations of restless young men. The leaders of each, in various ways, have used the Palestinian conflict to distract from their internal problems.

Jordan, Israel's closest Arab ally, is especially vulnerable to these pressures since at least 60 percent of its population is Palestinian. In the last several months especially, it has faced internal pressure from Islamic fundamentalists publicly clamoring to smuggle arms into the West Bank.

On Israel's northern border, the Lebanese Shiite Muslim movement Hezbollah has been amassing arms with the help of its benefactor, Iran, which has apparently also formed an alliance with the Palestinian Authority over the last year. In recent months, U.S. intelligence has fielded reports that al-Qaida operatives had moved into the region to regroup and form an alliance with Hezbollah.

"So, now you have Hezbollah sitting just over the border in Lebanon, with hundreds, if not thousands of missiles that can reach well into some of Israel's towns and developments," said Ranstorp. "Any escalation of this conflict could draw them in."

Moving farther away from Jerusalem, both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, countries that likely would provide necessary logistical support for the U.S. in an operation against Iraq, are also contending with Islamic fundamentalism that finds its voice in discontent over the Palestinian situation. As each country moves to shore up its domestic situation, it could strain relations with the U.S.

"The consequences of doing nothing can be very significant for the United States," said William Quandt, author of one of the leading books on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"Egypt at some point may have to shut down its relations with Israel and that's going to prompt Congress to start asking why we're giving so much aid money to Egypt," said Quandt.

"And what happens with the Saudis, who went out on the limb with a peace proposal that had the germs of a good idea? They may have to answer their domestic critics, and you could see a Saudi move closer to Iraq."

The United States is caught in a very dangerous dilemma, said Ranstorp. On the one hand, both sides in the struggle want it to be involved. But lacking any ideas that can resolve the crisis, further involvement may just drag it deeper into a quagmire.

"Up to now, in Afghanistan and in the secret war on terror going on around the world, the United States has been playing three-dimensional chess and playing it very well," said Ranstorp. "But what's going on in Israel makes it much more complicated. New pieces are moving onto the board and the game is changing."

Load-Date: April 3, 2002

There's little U.S. can do to stop regional Mideast meltdown Analysis

End of Document

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; DIGEST

Length: 659 words

Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: JERUSALEM; GENEVA; BEIJING

Body

Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to Parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hard-liner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, the Associated Press, quoting an unnamed committee member, reported that it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Compiled from Times Wires

On the security barrier, the AP, quoting a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported that the government has asked committees to study changes in the route as well as technical means of easing movement for Palestinians.

MORE **FEMALE** BOMBERS: The founder of Hamas announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit **female** suicide bombers. Last week, Hamas sent its first **female** assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for **women** to carry out bombings. Now, he said, **women** must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

WTO upholds some U.S.

duties on Canadian lumber

GENEVA - A World Trade Organization appeals panel gave a boost to the United States on Monday, reversing most of an earlier ruling that said U.S. special duties on Canadian lumber were illegal.

Sharon: Golan is price of Syrian peace

The panel agreed with U.S. claims that lumber from state-owned lands in Canada can be unfairly subsidized if provincial governments sell the wood at below-market price. Therefore the United States has the right to impose extra duties to prevent cheap Canadian wood harming U.S. manufacturers, the panel said.

It stressed, however, that Washington would still have to carry out more extensive investigations before it could justify imposing duties on some imports of logs.

Dutch officials tell of

nuclear knowhow transfer

Two government ministers in the Netherlands acknowledged Monday that highly sensitive nuclear technology developed by a Dutch company may have been transferred to Libya and North Korea along with Iran and Pakistan.

The disclosure in Parliament in Amsterdam marked the first public confirmation of assertions that centrifuge technology for enriching uranium apparently found its way to Libya and North Korea. It was already known that Pakistan and Iran had the technology.

The Dutch officials, Foreign Minister Bernard Bot and Economic Affairs Minister Laurens-Jan Brinkhorst, said it was not clear how the technology had been transferred.

China warns Taiwan about

new wording on ballot

BEIJING - A senior Chinese official rejected the new wording of a referendum that Taiwan is planning to hold in March and warned Monday that it would push cross-strait tensions "to the brink of danger." But he did not say how China would respond if the island goes ahead with the vote.

The statement was the first by a Chinese leader on the subject since Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, under U.S. pressure, announced Friday that he was changing the questions.

A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa. One soldier was killed and two were wounded when Hezbollah attacked an Israeli bulldozer that was clearing land at the Lebanese border on Monday. Hezbollah said the bulldozer strayed into Lebanon; Israel said it didn't.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; A seriously wounded Israeli soldier is rushed out of the hospital in Nahariya to be flown to a hospital in Haifa.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004

Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of the Irish republican movement have been left behind

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 17, 2005 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A23

Length: 655 words

Byline: TRUDY RUBIN, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Body

Today is St. Patrick's Day. But Sinn Fein - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - is being snubbed by the White House. Even a Boston Irishman like Senator Ted Kennedy is turning up his nose.

For the first time since 1995, Sinn Fein leaders won't be at the White House for shamrock celebrations. The reason: The IRA has turned from fighting for a political cause to barroom brawls and bank heists. And Sinn Fein, whose leaders have been "outed" as IRA leaders, can't escape responsibility for IRA crimes.

IRA hard men are still reluctant to give up their arms in a verifiable fashion, despite the 1998 Good Friday peace accord between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The IRA stands accused of robbing a bank in the Irish Republic of \$50 million in December. Other IRA members used knives to slit the throat of Catholic Robert McCartney in a Belfast bar on Jan. 30.

Time was when residents of Belfast's Catholic slums were grateful to the IRA, which fought for Catholic rights and defended them against vicious attacks by Protestant militias. But times have changed.

The Good Friday accords are temporarily frozen, but sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has halted. The economy is booming, and unemployment has dropped to 4.7 per cent, as investment rises. There are excellent prospects for stronger economic and political ties between Northern Ireland and the prosperous Irish Republic. People don't want to live in the past.

So when the five sisters of the murdered Robert McCartney decided to break the code of silence Catholics normally observe about IRA activities, they got support in their community. The sisters called on the IRA to stop protecting the killers. The White House invited the McCartneys to the St. Paddy's Day party instead of Northern Irish political leaders. Even Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has praised the women.

But none of the 70 witnesses to the murder - including two Sinn Fein political candidates - has gone to the police.

The IRA did ask the McCartneys whether they wanted the organization to handle the matter. It offered to shoot the offenders. The sisters angrily declined. The fact such an offer could be made, in this day and age, in Europe, shows how out of touch the IRA has become.

Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of the Irish republican movement have been left behind

Despite a bitter history of British repression, of discrimination by Protestants against Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite the anti-Catholic bigotry of Protestant leader Ian Paisley, the age of bullets has been replaced by the time of ballots.

Catholics now have a legitimate way to address grievances and seek power. Sinn Fein has gained strength as a political party in Northern Ireland and in the republic. In the words of Mitchell Reiss, President George W. Bush's special envoy on Northern Ireland: "There's no place in 2005 in Europe for a private army associated with a political party."

Reiss called for the IRA to disband. But what is most important is whether the IRA gives up its guns.

"It doesn't matter (if the IRA is disbanded) if it doesn't carry out criminal activity," says Paul Murphy, British secretary of state for Northern Ireland. "Those days are gone. Sinn Fein must go down an exclusively political road."

Thousands of kilometres away, the militant Lebanese group **Hezbollah** is facing a similar choice. As it showed by turning out 500,000 demonstrators, **Hezbollah** is a major political force in Lebanon - on the streets and in parliament. But the group, which has carried out terrorist operations in the past, insists on keeping its armed militia, despite U.S. and United Nations calls for it to disarm.

Surely, Northern Ireland is more politically advanced than Lebanon. Even Gerry Adams has said he hopes the IRA will disband, but "in a dignified way."

Surely, old republican fighters can find other employ than becoming a new mafia. It's time for Sinn Fein and its supporters to demand that the IRA become the Old Comrades Association and to pension its members off.

Graphic

Photo: REUTERS; Gerry Adams won't be at the White House today.

Load-Date: March 17, 2005

Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to hold onto power

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

November 23, 2005 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 596 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- A rush of fresh opinion polls suggest Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bold gambit to stay in power by creating a new, centrist party has been welcomed by Israelis.

Three separate newspaper polls published Tuesday showed Sharon's new party would gain 33 Knesset seats and, with the support of the Labour Party and other centre-left parties, could easily form a new coalition after elections that are to be held on March 28, according to a statement released by the Knesset speaker late Tuesday.

At the same time, the right-wing Likud Party, which Sharon quit two days ago, may suffer a crushing blow. Its seats in the Knesset could be reduced from 40 to 15.

"What Sharon has done has changed the whole political scene," said Amnon Rubenstein, a prominent law professor and founder of the liberal Shinui Party. "There will be a strong two-party majority [Sharon's new party and Labour] which will form a national-unity government. They will be for a two-state solution and territorial compromise and against the settlements and the outposts in the West Bank. And Likud will become a marginal opposition party."

Although famous for having been for so long the settler movement's greatest champion, it was not that odd that Sharon had shifted to the political centre, according to Yoram Peri, a political communications professor at Tel Aviv University.

"Sharon has always been a very pragmatic man without much love for institutions or organizational frameworks," Peri said. "He took Israel out of Sinai, destroyed a city he had built and then withdrew from the West Bank because he believed that this was in the national interest. But he has always been like this. I remember when I was a journalist covering the Yom Kippur War he stole jeeps and tanks from another unit. He did it because he thought his task was so important. He believed the future of Israeli defense force and the state of Israel were at stake."

What Sharon recognized, Peri said, was the Israeli public had formed a strong political centre for the past few years, that this centre wanted to give back part of the territories, but not all of them, and that it was prepared to act unilaterally.

But the official political map, which still tilted well to the right, did not represent the new Israeli reality, he said.

Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to hold onto power

The 77-year old prime minister's new party got its second name in as many days on Tuesday. Already banished are the words National Responsibility, which Sharon used several times during a campaign-style speech and news conference Monday. The new, tentative name for the group, according to Israeli radio, is to be Kadima, which means "forward" in Hebrew. But "Kadima" has yet to be approved by Sharon.

A total of 14 Likud deputies in the Knesset have joined whatever the new group is to be called. Sharon may have also scored a breakthrough by convincing at least one Labour Party deputy to defect, according to Israeli media reports.

Fourteen was a magic number of sorts because in Israel's complicated political system it means Sharon's new party will get additional free time political broadcasts on television and radio and will be eligible for millions of shekels of government funding to help pay for its election campaign.

Likud, meanwhile, put a brave face on a bleak situation Tuesday. At least seven of its remaining 26 deputies declared their intention to seek the leadership in primaries that begin December 18. They include the favourite, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, defence minister Shaul Mofaz, foreign minister Silvan Shalom and hardline right-winger Moshe Feiglin.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Mohammed Zaatari, Associated Press; Lebanese women throw rose petals and rice at the ambulance carrying the coffin of Hezbollah fighter Youssef Barakat, who was killed by Israeli forces on Monday, during his funeral procession at the village of Zibbeqine near the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Tuesday. Hezbollah rockets had blasted Israeli army outposts along the border.

Load-Date: November 23, 2005

End of Document

WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ, IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 8, 2004 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 684 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths on Tuesday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of al-Qaida longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Fallujah were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Muqtada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about al-Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with Hamas and **Hezbollah** and war on the West.

All this means that we are now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in our strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American confidently told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, we can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Fallujah, we must pacify Fallujah. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his bloody-minded challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

WITH A TWO-FRONT INSURGENCY IN IRAQ , IT'S TIME FOR DECISIVE COUNTERATTACK

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and U.N. facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: We will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-Hezbollah-al-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists here at home.

Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by Arab media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

Notes

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

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Two-Front Insurgency

The New York Times

April 7, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Editorial Desk; Pg. 19

Length: 685 words

Byline: By WILLIAM SAFIRE

E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen American combat deaths yesterday, we should keep in mind our historic bet: that given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

In the center group -- the Sunnis, who profited most from Saddam's dictatorship -- we see mostly a sullen population, its Baathist diehards allied with an affiliate of Al Qaeda longing for regime restoration. There is where the atrocities of Falluja were committed in the fiercest Sunni challenge to liberation.

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with Hamas and **Hezbollah** and war on the West.

All this means that we are now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in our strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American confidently told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

But now that the Saddam restorationists and Islamic fundamentalists have made their terrorist move on both fronts, we can counterattack decisively.

"In war, resolution." Having announced we would pacify rebellious Baathists in Falluja, we must pacify Falluja. Having designated the Shiite Sadr an outlaw, we must answer his bloody-minded challenge with whatever military force is required and with fewer casualties in the long run.

Two-Front Insurgency

But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and U.N. facilitators live up to their promises.

We should couple this with a temporary increase in troop strength, if necessary: we will pull alongside, not pull out or pull alone. We should take up the Turks on their offer of 10,000 troops to fight on our side against two-front terror. The Kurds, who have patched things up with Ankara and know which side of the two-front war they and we are on, would withdraw their ill-considered earlier objection.

We should break the Iranian-**Hezbollah**-Sadr connection in ways that our special forces know how to do. Plenty of Iraqi Shiites, who are Arab, distrust the Persian ayatollahs in Iran and can provide actionable intelligence about a Syrian transmission belt.

And we should coolly confront the quaking quagmirists here at home.

Does Ted Kennedy speak for his Massachusetts junior senator, John Kerry, when he calls our effort to turn terror-supporting despotism into nascent liberty in Iraq "Bush's Vietnam"?

Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by Arab media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- women's, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 7, 2004

End of Document

Stand up to the evil-speak: Vote

The Philadelphia Inquirer

OCTOBER 27, 2004 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: LOCAL NEWS PHILADELPHIA & ITS SUBURBS; Pg. B01

Length: 619 words

Byline: Tom Ferrick Jr.

Body

Is candidate Ginny Schrader a supporter of Hezbollah? Does she back al-Qaeda and its plan to attack America?

Apparently so.

Is candidate Lois Murphy a big fan of the Taliban? Does she have an autographed picture of Osama bin Laden by her bedside, with the inscription:

Dearest Lois,

Lotsa luck in the election!

Your Pal, Osama

It sure looks that way.

Is candidate Allyson Schwartz a Negro-hugging coddler of cop killers who is to the left of V.I. Lenin?

From what I hear, she is.

If you vote for John Kerry, are you opening America to terrorist attack? Will babies be eaten by wolves?

That's what I've been led to believe.

Are blacks in Philly conspiring to steal the election? Are they planning to engage in massive voter fraud to steal votes from President Bush, denying him victory in Pennsylvania?

That's what it says in the papers.

Welcome to the final week of the 2004 campaign.

So much venom to dispense, so little time. By golly, the Republicans are churning it out this year.

Stand up to the evil-speak: Vote

Which usually means one thing: They are in trouble.

You can usually judge the state of a campaign by the shrillness of its media campaign.

What we are hearing in these final weeks is the equivalent of a primal scream.

Lexus of Evil?

The three above-named women are Democrats running for area congressional seats. As it turns out, they are giving their Republican opponents a real run for their money.

John Kerry - as you know - is the Democratic candidate for president, and, in Pennsylvania at least, he is pulling away in the public polls.

The better Kerry does in the state, the more he has a levitating effect on the entire Democratic ticket.

Ergo, time to do ads etched in acid, dipped in bile, wrapped in hyperbole, and sealed with spit.

My favorite so far: a Robocall made on behalf of Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach that links Murphy to the Taliban . . . and the Sierra Club.

Talk about an Axle of Evil.

A radical, Muslim extremist group centered in Afghanistan in cahoots with tree-huggers from Berwyn who favor hybrid cars.

I feel for the Republican political operatives.

It was much easier in the days when the Communists were still around. Then, all you had to do was brand your opponent as a fellow-traveling comsymp and be done with it. Now, it's much more complicated.

Hollywood has the same problem.

It was better in movie land when the Russkies were the enemy. Now, producers have to fish around for new ones.

The Swiss did it

I saw one movie where they made the Finns the evil guys. The Finns, for gosh sakes. They haven't harmed a herring in hundreds of years. Who's next, the Swiss?

Hence the guest-shot appearances this campaign season by the Taliban, al-Qaeda and Hezbollah. (Rule of thumb: If they wear turbans, they must be bad.)

Hence the label "radical," employed frequently in these ads.

Hence the raw appeal to fear.

It's almost biblical. Vote for So-and-So and you will be visited by a plague of locusts, suffer a seven-year drought, and, to top it off, an angel of death will kill your oldest male child!

The object of these endeavors? Mostly to suppress turnout. Keep people away from the polls - or at least away from a cluster of levers inside the voting booth.

Why is it used? Because it usually works. It's as simple as that.

It does suppress turnout. It does win elections.

Stand up to the evil-speak: Vote

Don't get me wrong. I have no objection to tough "record" pieces on political opponents. After all, these are campaigns, not tea dances.

But this extreme stuff is reprehensible. It poisons the (small "d") democratic process. It is, at its root, soulless and corrupting.

My suggestion: In the voting booth next week, do what you can to stop it.

Contact Tom Ferrick at 215-854-2714 or tferrick@phillynews.com. Read his recent work at <http://go.philly.com/ferrick>.

Load-Date: September 1, 2005

End of Document

Intifada leader uses courtroom to point to one-state solution: Barghouti defiant during closing speech

The Guardian - Final Edition

September 30, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 621 words

Byline: Chris McGreal

Body

Marwan Barghouti, the highest ranking Palestinian on trial in Israel for terrorism, defended the past three years of violent intifada yesterday by warning that if Israel failed to deliver independence to the Palestinians it would have to accept Arabs as equal citizens.

The man considered to be Yasser Arafat's natural successor also accused members of the Israeli government of murdering the former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1996 to kill peace.

Mr Barghouti used his final address to the judges in his trial on 26 counts of murder to defend the past three years of resistance to occupation. The intifada has cost more than 3,000 Israeli and Palestinian lives.

"I am proud of the intifada. I am proud of the resistance to Israeli occupation," he said.

"To die is better than living under occupation. I am standing here because I resisted Israeli occupation."

Mr Barghouti, who led the Tanzim - the military wing of the Fatah movement - said: "I hope the Israelis have learned that the Palestinian people can not be brought to yield with force. If an occupation does not end unilaterally or through negotiations then there is only one solution, one state for two people.

"How can the Jews who suffered and survived the Holocaust allow themselves to resort to such insufferable and unacceptable means against another people?"

Mr Barghouti, who is accused of organising suicide bombings and gun attacks, was ambivalent in his rejection of violence against civilians.

"I am against killing innocent people, against murdering innocent women and children. All the time I said I was against military operations but one must fight Israeli occupation in the territories. We are a people like all other people. We want freedom and a state just like the Israelis," he said.

During his testimony he was given leeway by the judges, who helped him with Hebrew words.

He touched a raw nerve with the Israeli right by accusing it of setting the stage for the murder of Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish extremist opposed to territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

"The brave man Yitzhak Rabin was murdered. Who murdered Rabin? Those who sit in government now," he said.

Intifada leader uses courtroom to point to one-state solution: Barghouti defiant during closing speech

"When Rabin was murdered we also paid the price for the murder."

Mr Barghouti said Mr Sharon was mistaken if he believed the Israeli cabinet's threat to exile, or even kill, Mr Arafat would end resistance.

"The Palestinian people will choose its leaders. Yasser Arafat is the leader of the Palestinians and if not Arafat then (the Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed)) Yassin and if not Yassin then (Yassin's deputy, Abdel-Aziz) Rantissi. And if not Rantissi then Barghouti," he said.

Mr Barghouti, who denounced the court as illegitimate and did not take part in most of his trial, taunted the judges and prosecutors by saying that, whatever the verdict, he would walk free as part of a political deal.

The Lebanese Shia group **Hizbullah** has demanded Mr Barghouti's release in return for the release of an Israeli businessman held captive and the bodies of three soldiers.

"Put together a commemorative book, because this is history," he told the prosecutor. "I'll be out soon enough."

In marked contrast to Mr Barghouti's attitude, the former Palestinian security minister Mohammed Dahlan has denounced suicide attacks and other violence against Israeli civilians as "detrimental to our national struggle".

Mr Dahlan has been sacked from the cabinet of the new Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, which is packed with Arafat loyalists. The cabinet is due to be sworn in later this week.

*A civil service strike against the government's austerity budget closed most public services yesterday and caused long delays at Tel Aviv airport.

guardian.co.uk/palestinians

Load-Date: September 30, 2003

Hezbollah bombed after Israeli bulldozer attacked

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)
January 18, 2005 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A10; NEWS

Length: 97 words

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

Israeli warplanes twice bombed suspected Hezbollah targets along the border in southern Lebanon on Monday, wounding two women, after guerrillas blew up an Israeli bulldozer in a disputed area near the frontier, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli artillery pounded positions in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, where the bulldozer attack took place, before fighter jets raided two other Lebanese border regions.

The flare-up near Israel's northern border comes as the Palestinian Authority tries to rein in Palestinian militants responsible for attacks in southern Israel.
Associated Press

Load-Date: January 18, 2005

Resolute in Iraq

The International Herald Tribune

April 8, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 7

Length: 689 words

Byline: William Safire

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

In light of about a dozen U.S. combat deaths on Tuesday, we Americans should keep in mind our historic bet: That given their freedom from a savage tyrant, the three groups that make up Iraq could, with our help, create a rudimentary democracy that would turn the tide against terror.

In the northern group, we can see success: Rival Kurdish parties have come together to work within an Iraqi parliament when elections come. "Kirkuk is our Jerusalem," they say, and that oil-rich area -- long the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, before Saddam's ethnic cleansing -- should be their regional capital in unified Iraq.

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The New York Times

In Baghdad and the South, long-oppressed Shiites -- 60 percent of Iraq's population -- have the most to gain from democracy and reconstruction. But they are now split. A minority of terrorists led by the firebrand Moktada al-Sadr, under Iran's influence, are challenging the quietist Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani. That ayatollah is keen to protect his following by complaining about the liberation and wrings his hands about Sadr, who has openly declared alliance with Hamas and *Hezbollah* and war on the West.

All this means that America is now fighting an active two-front insurgency. That calls for a change in strategy. Up to now we have tried to hunker down and train Iraqis to handle security, lest we appear to be nasty "occupiers." That only emboldened the Sunni terrorists and Shiite Iranists. One anti-American told another Iraqi with cool nonpartisanship about ousting U.S. presidents: "We'll do to Bush what we did to Carter."

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But we must impress on the minds of millions of Shiites that there is no free ride to freedom. We should keep the heat on Shiite ditherers by holding fast to the June 30 deadline for the delivery of sovereignty to Iraq's three groups. It's less about the U.S. election than demanding that Iraqi leaders and UN facilitators live up to their promises.

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Do the apostles of retreat realize how their defeatism, magnified by the Arab news media, bolsters the morale of the insurgents and increases the nervousness of the waverers?

Does our coulda-woulda-shoulda crowd consider how it dismays the majority of Iraqis wondering if they can count on our continued presence as they feel their way toward freedom?

These are the times that try men's souls, and -- as Tom Paine's enlightened acquaintance, Mary Wollstonecraft, would have added -- **women's**, too. This is the crisis; we'll come through it.

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E-mail: safire@nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

CELEBRATION OF ASHOURA NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH

Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI)

April 14, 2002 Sunday, ALL Editions

Copyright 2002 Madison Newspapers, Inc.

Section: OPINION; GUEST COLUMN; Pg. B2; Column

Length: 577 words

Byline: Michelle Townsend

Body

"Juice?"

"Hmm?" I look up, a little dazed, as things start to come back into focus. I am sitting on a curb in Nabatiyeh, a town in southern Lebanon, swollen with about 15,000 people celebrating Ashoura. My friends are standing over me, a street vendor selling fresh squeezed orange juice hands me a cup.

EDITOR'S NOTE: MICHELLE TOWNSEND, A 2000 GRADUATE OF MADISON WEST HIGH SCHOOL, IS A STUDENT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT. FROM TIME TO TIME, YOUR FORUM WILL CARRY TOWNSEND'S ACCOUNTS OF LIFE AMID THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS COMPLEXITIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Now I remember standing in the

middle of the street, watching a group of young Shiite men getting worked up in a tent, blood beginning to flow out of the cuts in their foreheads, shouting "Haider!" The blood, the intensity - it was so overwhelming that things went black, the man chanting and sobbing over the loud speakers faded, and I fell to my knees in the middle of the street.

My friends - Farshad, Evan and Inga - had to carry me to the side of the street before the next wave of mourners shouting "Haider!" overtook me.

Haider is another word for the Islamic Caliph Hussein, son of Ali, the nephew of the Prophet Muhammed. Hussein was killed in a battle over the disagreement over who should succeed the prophet. I am in Nabatiyeh to watch how Shiites mourn his assassination during Ashoura.

I take some sips of juice as a mother passing by pats my head with concern. Her son pulls her over to another street vendor so she can buy him an "I love you Hussein" T-shirt. The atmosphere is somewhat like a Fourth of July parade, with families strolling by, carts piled with kaake, manaeesh, cotton candy and juices. Vendors sell shirts, flags of Hezbollah (the Islamic resistance movement) and T-shirts of Amal (an Islamic political party.)

The night before, we stayed in Saideh with Teta, the grandmother of my Palestinian friend, Ali. Teta scolded us in Arabic while piling baklava onto our plates. (Ali told us later that she was tsk-tsking him for encouraging me and Inga to go to Ashoura, that the Quran says you should respect your body and not harm it in any way and that we would get a bad impression of Islam.)

CELEBRATION OF ASHOURA NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH

Suddenly, she turned to put the volume up on the TV. Inga and I threw as many sweets as we could back into the basket: Arabic women are lethal with their food, stuffing you until you can barely breathe.

On the TV, we saw young men with Kalashnikovs running across a street while the news anchor spoke frantically. I read Nabatiyeh in Arabic at the bottom of the screen.

"Fighting has broken out between Hezbollah and Amal over how to celebrate Ashoura," said Ali. "They say a few people have died in Nabatiyeh."

Teta is upset and as we walked out the door. She made us promise on a bag of Arabic sweets that we wouldn't go. As we walked out of the house, I turned to Inga. "We're still going right?"

"Oh yeah."

That's how I got here, where I am getting up off the street corner, with the help of one of the many Lebanese soldiers lining the streets. There are tanks all around Hussein Square where a re-enactment of Hussein's beheading is taking place. The large military presence is a comforting balance to the passionate processions going down the street. There is more blood now, waterfalls down their white T-shirts, and it is becoming difficult for me to stay conscious. Children munching happily on shawarma are starting to fade again.

Farshad asks if we want to leave. We nod weakly.

Graphic

Associated Press

Blood-spattered Shiite Muslims hit their heads with swords and hands during a religious festival called Ashoura on March 24 in Nabatiyeh, Lebanon. Michelle Townsend watched the event.

Load-Date: April 16, 2002

ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades

Daily News (New York)

October 4, 2001, Thursday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2001 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 638 words

Byline: By KENNETH R. BAZINET in Washington and DAVE GOLDINER in New York DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Body

Palestinian gunmen opened fire yesterday on a crowd of Israeli settlers in the West Bank city of Hebron, the latest in a series of attacks that have shredded a fledgling truce.

The attack followed an Israeli incursion hours earlier in the Gaza Strip that killed six Palestinians.

The accelerating violence led Israel to postpone peace talks indefinitely, and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the government would not return to talks "until the Palestinian Authority has taken control and stops terrorism."

"Yasser Arafat has made a complete mockery of this ceasefire," Israeli spokesman Dore Gold said of the Palestinian leader. "Until it becomes clear that Mr. Arafat is willing to fulfill his ceasefire obligations, what point is there in pursuing this discussion?"

U.S. condemns violence

In Washington, the Bush administration condemned the cycle of violence and revenge.

"The Palestinian Authority must take immediate, sustained and effective steps to preempt violence and shooting attacks," a State Department official said.

In the Hebron attack, gunmen fired on a crowd of Israelis gathered to mark the holiday of Succoth at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine sacred to Muslims and Jews.

Two women were wounded, including one who was listed in serious condition.

After nightfall, a pregnant Israeli woman and her husband were seriously wounded in a Palestinian drive-by shooting near Jerusalem, police said.

Earlier, Israeli tanks shelled a Palestinian police station and rumbled through a tiny Arab town in the Gaza Strip.

Six Palestinians were killed in the raid, which Israelis called an act of self-defense after an attack on a nearby Jewish settlement, Alei Sinai, on Tuesday left two settlers dead.

ISRAEL PUTS OFF PEACE TALKS Palestinians shoot at settlers as Mideast ceasefire fades

Scores of Palestinians fled their homes as the Israeli armor approached the dusty, garbage-strewn streets of Beit Lahia.

"I had to take my children out of the house, carrying two at a time," said Mahmoud Abu Khalil, 40, a father of 10. "The tank shells and bullets never stopped."

Since the terror attacks in the U.S. on Sept. 11, Washington has been trying to cool off the Mideast fighting as it attempts to bring Arab states into an anti-terrorism coalition.

Yesterday's attacks did not alter President Bush's support for Palestinian statehood.

"I would say we all recognize the President leads, the President decides and the President spoke," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "That is U.S. policy."

Consistent violations

American Jewish leaders yesterday blasted U.S. support for a Palestinian state, with the leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations calling it "a reward for terrorism and violence."

"The Palestinian Authority has consistently violated its agreements on security," said a statement from the group's chairman, Mortimer B. Zuckerman, who is also chairman and co-publisher of the Daily News, and Malcolm Hoenlein, the group's executive vice chairman.

"Mr. Arafat has consistently failed to call on the Palestinians to refrain from violence or to use the police forces he has available to him to restrain them."

The statement called on the Bush administration to include radical Palestinian groups in its list of terrorist groups.

"The President put it properly in appealing to everyone to join in a war against terrorism, 'Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists,' " the statement read. "But there seems to be an exception, and that is Yasser Arafat and the failure to include Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad on the list of terrorist regimes."

"There is no justification for terrorism, no matter what," the statement said. "We believe that the administration's suggestion that this is a time to think about providing U.S. support for a Palestinian state and to exclude Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad from the list of terrorists is ill-advised."

Graphic

AP TIME TO REGROUP Citizens of the Jewish settlement of Alei Sinai in the Gaza Strip and Israeli soldiers grieve yesterday, a day after they were fired upon.

Load-Date: October 4, 2001

New terror threats put Israel on high alert: Spy chief expects unprecedented attacks

The Ottawa Citizen

January 24, 2002 Thursday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 667 words

Byline: Christopher Walker

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli cities were on maximum alert for terrorist reprisals yesterday after the army's intelligence chief warned parliament to expect attacks "the likes of which we have not seen before."

In Jerusalem -- where two women died from their wounds overnight after a Palestinian terrorist opened fire in the main commercial thoroughfare, wounding 14 other people -- hundreds of heavily-armed soldiers and police were on patrol. They often outnumbered ordinary pedestrians on the streets.

One of the women, cut down without warning during the height of the Tuesday afternoon rush hour, was identified as Sarah Hamberger, 78.

The Times of London; with files from Citizen News Services

The other, whose name was not released, was 56. "Security officials are preparing for an all-out escalation by terrorists, and all arms of the security forces have been placed on heightened alert," Israel Radio reported.

Islamic militants again threatened "all-out war" yesterday to avenge the killing of a Hamas commander in the West Bank, and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority said it can no longer be expected to enforce a truce with Israel.

With tensions and violence rising, Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned Mr. Arafat yesterday to urge him to curb attacks on Israel.

Palestinian militants and mainstream activists marched together in a funeral procession in Nablus, burying the dead from Israel's raid on a bomb factory a day earlier. Four Hamas activists were killed, including West Bank militant leader Yousef Soragji, 42, mastermind of several suicide bombings. More than 15,000 Palestinians thronged the funeral processions, led by activists from Hamas and the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement.

"We will not close our eyes until we see your reprisal," the crowd chanted, as gunmen fired in the air. Mr. Arafat's armed police force did not intervene.

New terror threats put Israel on high alert: Spy chief expects unprecedented attacks

Hamas pledged an "all-out war" against Israel in retaliation, and Palestinian cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority could not enforce a ceasefire under the circumstances.

"The Israeli guns are being pointed to our heads," he said. "We are not able to implement any of our commitments."

Violence spread to Israel's northern border with Lebanon, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorists fired at Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa Farms region for the first time since October. Israel retaliated with shellfire and warplane attacks in which at least six air-to-surface missiles were fired on suspected Hezbollah positions.

Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem's right-wing mayor, said: "This is a war. It is a painful war. We are going to win this war, but it will not be easy and it will not be in a short time."

The Israeli prediction of growing violence came from Maj.-Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, after a Hamas declaration of "all-out war" on Tuesday. He told Knesset deputies: "The coming period will see more serious terror attacks than we have been used to up to now in cities throughout Israel."

Gen. Zeevi-Farkash, the new chief of military intelligence, who has been in his role for less than a month, refused to go into detail. He said the Tanzim, a hardline militia linked to Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction of the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization, had decided to avenge the death of Raed Karmi -- a leading militant killed by the Israelis in the West Bank last week -- for 40 days, until the end of the traditional Muslim mourning period.

Hemi Shalev, a leading middle-of-the-road Israeli commentator, writing in the daily Maariv, said the Israeli public was now ready for a major attack on Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority. "The atmosphere is that of the eve of war," he wrote.

Israeli tanks remained parked just metres from Mr. Arafat's West Bank headquarters in the town of Ramallah, the most visible of the measures Israel has taken.

Also yesterday, Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israeli officials said they were built without permits.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

The New York Times

March 6, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

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

Length: 1649 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR; Mona el-Naggar contributed reporting for this article.

Dateline: CAIRO, March 5

Body

The leaders of about half of Egypt's rickety opposition parties sat down for one of their regular meetings this week under completely irregular circumstances. In the previous few days, President Hosni Mubarak opened presidential elections to more than one candidate, and street demonstrators helped topple Lebanon's government.

The mood around the table in a battered downtown Cairo office veered between humor and trepidation, participants said, as they faced the prospect of fielding presidential candidates in just 75 days. "This is all totally new, and nobody is ready," said Mahmoud Abaza, deputy leader of the Wafd Party, one of Egypt's few viable opposition groups. "Sometimes even if you don't know how to swim you just have to dive into the water and manage. Political life will change fundamentally."

The entire Middle East seems to be entering uncharted political and social territory with a similar mixture of anticipation and dread. Events in Lebanon and Egypt, following a limited vote for municipal councils in Saudi Arabia and landmark elections in Iraq, as well as the Palestinian territories, combined to give the sense, however tentative, that twilight might be descending on authoritarian Arab governments.

A mix of outside pressure and internal shifts has created this moment. Arabs of a younger, more savvy generation appear more willing to take their dissatisfaction directly to the front stoop of repressive leaders.

In Beirut on Saturday, a crowd of mostly young demonstrators hooted through a speech by the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, as he repeated too-familiar arguments for pan-Arab solidarity, without committing to a timetable for withdrawing Syrian soldiers from Lebanon.

Young protesters have been spurred by the rise of new technology, especially uncensored satellite television, which prevents Arab governments from hiding what is happening on their own streets. The Internet and cellphones have also been deployed to erode censorship and help activists mobilize in ways previous generations never could.

Another factor, pressure from the Bush administration, has emboldened demonstrators, who believe that their governments will be more hesitant to act against them with Washington linking its security to greater freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks. The United States says it will no longer support repressive governments, and young Arabs, while hardly enamored of American policy in the region, want to test that promise.

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

Egypt's tiny opposition movement -- called Kifaya, or Enough in English, in reference to Mr. Mubarak's 24-year tenure -- has drawn attention across the region, even if the police easily outnumber the few hundred demonstrators who gather periodically outside courthouses or syndicate offices to bellow their trademark slogan. Protesters used to exploit solidarity demonstrations with the Palestinians to shout a few abusive slogans against Mr. Mubarak. Suddenly, they are beaming their frustration right at him.

"Everything happening is taking place in one context, the bankruptcy of the authoritarian regimes and their rejection by the Arab people," said Michel Kilo, a rare political activist in Damascus. "Democracy is being born and the current authoritarianism is dying."

Even so, the changes wrought in each country thus far appear minor and preliminary, though the idea of challenging authoritarian rule more directly is remarkably new. In Egypt, nobody expects anyone but Mr. Mubarak to win this fall. Old rules against basic freedoms like the right to assemble, essential for a campaign, remain unaltered.

The al-Saud clan in Saudi Arabia has not ceded any real power in letting men, but not women, vote for only half the members of the country's nearly 200 councils.

"Congratulations and More Power," read a computer printout staffers hung on the wall of the office of Tarek O. al-Kasabi, the chairman of a Riyadh hospital, after he won one of seven city council seats.

"People want to enlarge the decision-making process, which is a good and healthy thing," said Mr. Kasabi, noting that he would rather move slowly than see the country destabilized. "We know how to reform better than anyone else. It is our life; nobody from outside can dictate how we live."

In Lebanon, young demonstrators with gelled hair or bare midriffs serve as an unlikely model for popular uprisings across the Arab world, especially since their goals do not quite apply elsewhere.

They seek to rid themselves of an outside power, Syria, and their movement, the region's first modern mass democratic one, was galvanized by a horrific one-time event: the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri removed a real estate tycoon turned politician who embodied all the country's hopes to rebuild after the civil war from 1975 to 1990.

"If someone like Hariri can be assassinated it means anyone in the country can be killed," said Doreen Khoury, a 26-year-old getting her master's degree in political science, sitting at the entrance to a small green pup tent downtown.

Ms. Khoury and a colleague, Noura Mourad, have been camping for two weeks in the carnival-like tent city that sprang up spontaneously on Martyrs' Square, once the throbbing heart of this city and now largely sandy lots. Most demonstrators were not even born when the war destroyed it, but they know they want something different.

"This is something unknown for the Arab world -- it is pacifist, it is democratic and it is spontaneous," Ms. Mourad, 24, said.

Ahmed Beydoun, a sociology professor at the Lebanese University, noting a crucial difference from the rest of the Arab world, said: "The Lebanese want their institutions to work normally, which is prevented by Syrian influence. It is not a problem with the political system itself."

Taken together, events in Cairo, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Beirut and beyond are the first taste of something new, and the participants are bound to thirst for more.

"The general atmosphere awaits big political and social change," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi commentator on Dubai television. "There will have to be some sort of dialogue between the regimes and the people, or there will be confrontation, but things will not remain as they are."

Arabs differ on the degree to which American influence helped foster the changed mood, but there is no doubt that pressure from the Bush administration played some role.

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

Iraq, however, serves more as a threat than a model. Although many Arabs were impressed by the zeal with which Iraqis turned out to vote on Jan. 30, Iraq remains a synonym for frightening, violent chaos.

"When you are a Syrian, or an Egyptian or a Saudi and you see what happened to Iraqi society over the past two years, you wonder if democracy deserves such instability and such a sacrifice of people," said Ghassan Salame, a former Lebanese cabinet minister.

The changes started long before the American military overthrew Saddam Hussein, but there were false starts. Parliamentary elections in Jordan, Yemen and Morocco, for example, did not dilute the power of their authoritarian rulers.

New technology has driven the steps toward greater freedoms. Satellite stations brought news of demonstrations to a widening audience. Indeed, the crowds in Beirut swelled in part because potential demonstrators could see that government troops had not opened fire. Months earlier, Arabs watched similar events unfold in Ukraine.

But undoubtedly the most important new element is the spontaneous involvement of people themselves.

"You need democrats to produce democracy, you can't produce it through institutions," Mr. Salame said. "You need people to fight for it to make it real. Neither American tanks or domestic institutions can do it, you need democrats. In Beirut, you have a hard core of 10,000 to 15,000 youngsters who are democrats and who are imposing the tempo."

Support for them is far from universal, either at home or abroad, however, and may yet limit what the demonstrators achieve.

Inside Lebanon, important domestic forces like the Syrian-backed Hezbollah, the most powerful Shiite organization, have yet to commit to the goal of ending Syrian dominance.

"Shiites are not comfortable with joining the opposition because they would be indirectly supporting U.S. policy in the region," said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an expert on Hezbollah at the Lebanese American University.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, which the United States and France pushed through to make the demand for a Syrian withdrawal an international one, also stipulates disarming Hezbollah. The group is faced with an intense problem. Hezbollah remains popular among all Lebanese for ending the Israeli occupation of the south, but that popularity might fade if it backs Syria's continued presence.

The American campaign for democracy in the Middle East is viewed by nationalists and many Islamists as a conspiracy to weaken the Arabs. The violence in Iraq helps sustain the idea here that the invasion was not about helping the Iraqis, but rather was part of an American thrust for dominance in the region.

Over all, though, many Arabs sense that small cracks are finally appearing in the brick walls they have faced for decades, even if it will take months or even years to determine just how significant those cracks become.

Some activists wonder, for example, if Syria's governing Baath Party is forced to retreat from Lebanon, how long it will take for demonstrations to emerge in Damascus.

"There is such a high percentage of young people who see the future as something totally black," said Mr. Abaza of the Egyptian Wafd Party. "If you open even a small window for them to see the sky, it will be a tremendous force for change. But they have to be able to see the sky."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

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TALIBAN SHOOT AT HIGH-FLYING PLANE

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

October 7, 2001, Sunday

Copyright 2001 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a4

Length: 593 words

Byline: TED ANTHONY, Associated Press writer

Body

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan --Taliban gunners in Afghanistan's capital unleashed a thunderous barrage at a plane cruising high over Kabul on Saturday as President Bush warned that "time is running out" for the regime to hand over Osama bin Laden.

The Taliban defiantly repeated their vow to wage holy war against America and threatened to invade neighboring Uzbekistan if that country participates in any U.S.-led attack.

The shrill rhetoric appeared to mask a sense of desperation as the Taliban searched for a way out of the crisis. The regime offered to free eight aid workers, including two Americans, if Washington stops its threats and begins negotiations.

The White House rejected the offer.

Afghan authorities said they will unconditionally release British journalist Yvonne Ridley, 43, who was arrested last month inside Afghanistan with two Afghan guides. British officials expect her release within days.

Early Saturday afternoon, residents of the Afghan capital rushed into the streets when Taliban gunners fired anti-aircraft guns and two missiles at a lone, silver-colored aircraft whose jet trail was visible in the bright blue sky.

The gunners missed their mark, and Taliban authorities admitted the plane's altitude was beyond the range of their air defenses. Afghanistan's airspace is closed to all traffic, and the Taliban said the aircraft was a spy plane.

Kabul residents, inured to the sounds of war after more than 20 years of conflict, showed no sign of panic once they realized the city was not under attack.

"Who cares about the attack," mechanic Najibullah said while staring at the sky along with his three children. "We have seen so much fighting now; no one is afraid of death."

Last month, the Taliban said it shot down a spy plane over northern Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the United States lost contact with an unmanned reconnaissance plane but had no reason to believe it was shot down.

The United States is massing military forces around Afghanistan to press its demand that the Islamic militia hand over bin Laden, the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks.

TALIBAN SHOOT AT HIGH-FLYING PLANE

Taliban authorities have refused to give him up but have offered to negotiate with the United States.

"Because of American threats, people are being forced to flee their homes, along with their children and women and old people," the Taliban said. "Are their lives not important?"

The Bush administration is in no mood for compromise.

"The Taliban has been given the opportunity to surrender all the terrorists in Afghanistan and to close down their camps and operations," Bush said Saturday. "Full warning has been given, and time is running out."

The Taliban have appealed to Muslims worldwide to join a jihad, or holy war, if the United States attacks. In the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, several thousand people shouted anti-American and anti-British slogans Saturday during a noisy four-hour rally in support of the Taliban and bin Laden.

"Whatever we do, we will never hand over Osama," said Hizbullah, 16, a religion student in Peshawar. "If Americans attack Afghanistan, nothing would make me happier than to kill them. If I saw one after that had happened, I wouldn't hesitate for a moment."

On Saturday night, Taliban radio broadcast poems whose lyrics condemned America.

Neighboring governments have all denounced the Sept. 11 attacks. Pakistan, once the Taliban's ally, has pledged full support for the U.S. anti-terrorism campaign. Uzbekistan has agreed to let the United States station troops on its soil but not to launch offensive operations.

Load-Date: October 8, 2001

West rebukes Israel's assassins: Major powers declare that murdering Palestinian fighters is illegal, but Israelis support the state's policy

The Guardian (London)

February 15, 2001

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 14

Length: 619 words

Byline: Brian Whitaker

Body

International opprobrium was piling up on Israel yesterday for its state-approved assassinations of suspected terrorists - a practice widely regarded as illegal.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British government was shocked by the "murder" of one of Yasser Arafat's bodyguards by Israeli forces on Tuesday, and of eight Israelis by a Palestinian yesterday.

"We condemn all acts of violence and urge both sides to refrain from reprisals. Neither side will gain from an escalation of the violence," the spokesman said.

Earlier, the outgoing Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak, publicly congratulated Israeli forces for killing the bodyguard, Massoud Ayad, whose car was hit by rockets from two helicopters.

Yesterday's attack, in which a Palestinian driver ploughed into Israeli soldiers at a bus stop, is thought to be a reprisal for Ayad's killing.

"This is exactly the kind of escalation we had feared," a European diplomat close to the recent peace negotiations said.

Mr Barak's security adviser, Danny Yatom, defended the assassination of Ayad, telling Israel Radio: "We don't take pride in liquidating terrorists. We are in the midst of a battle, in the midst of a war against terrorism, and in this war we must strike at those who (threaten Israel)."

He described Ayad, 53, as an "arch-terrorist" linked to the Lebanon-based organisation **Hizbullah**.

Under international law assassinations are illegal unless the two sides are considered to be at war.

Colonel Daniel Reisner, the Israeli army's head of international law, wrote recently in a briefing document: "International law actually only recognises two situations: peace and war. But life isn't as simple as that."

He continued: "We have reached the decision that the current situation has more of a semblance of war than of peace. As a result, we are also applying the principles applicable to warfare."

West rebukes Israel 's assassins: Major powers declare that murdering Palestinian fighters is illegal, but Israelis support the state's policy

To the Israelis, one problem with this interpretation is that the Palestinians could use it too. They would then be legally entitled to kill Israeli soldiers (as happened yesterday) and anyone else they regard as combatants - such as armed settlers.

The European Union, which is Israel's biggest trading partner, has urged the Israelis to "cease this practice and thus respect international law".

Britain has backed the strong EU statement Sweden made as the current holder of the union's presidency. It said the EU "deplores the practice of so-called 'eliminations' or extra-judicial killings of Palestinians carried out by Israeli security forces".

The US, while also condemning Palestinian violence, made clear its disapproval of the assassinations.

Richard Boucher of the state department said: "The use of Israeli helicopter gunships, Palestinian attacks against settlements and motorists, the use of mortars by Palestinians and the targeted killings by the Israeli Defence Force . . . are producing a new cycle of action or reaction which can become impossible to control."

He pointed out that the secretary of state, Colin Powell, who is to visit the Middle East next week, had spoken several times "about the need to avoid these kind of actions".

Israel began assassinating suspected leaders of the Palestinian uprising in November, sending helicopter gunships to kill Hussein Abayat in Bethlehem on the day Mr Arafat, the Palestinian leader, was visiting the White House in Washington. Two elderly Palestinian women who happened to be nearby were also killed.

At least a dozen Palestinians have been liquidated by Israeli forces in these attacks.

Yesterday Ayed Abu Harb, a 24-year-old member of Yasser Arafat's Fatah group, was shot dead between Nablus and Tulkarm. Palestinian sources said it was the latest assassination by the Israelis.

Load-Date: February 15, 2001

Rice in London for Iran talks;

Irish News

October 17, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 27

Length: 279 words

Body

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice will today hold talks in London with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

They will discuss Iran's withdrawal from international negotiations about its nuclear activities.

The visit is part of a European tour to press for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The security situation in Iraq amid the country's constitution vote will also be on the agenda.

British defence sources believe that Iran is providing weapons technology and training to Iraqi insurgents. They said sophisticated bombs that killed eight British soldiers had been supplied by Hezbollah via the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

In an interview with the BBC, Ms Rice called on Iran to become "good neighbours" with Iraq.

"I trust the British on this issue because the British are operating in the south. They know the situation there," she said.

Ms Rice said the constitutional vote was an "important milestone" and that the insurgents attempting to wreck the creation of a permanent government would fail.

"The insurgency can't ultimately survive without a political base.

"Even though there a few violent men who can always wreak havoc, who can always grab the headlines, who can always kill innocent men, women and schoolchildren, the Iraqi political process goes on and the Iraqis are taking advantage of it."

She said she did not know how long the insurgency would last but said it was fair for British and American people to be patient and support the Iraqis "so that we can finish this job".

Yesterday, the UK's Iranian ambassador, Dr Seyed Mohammed Hossein Adeli, publicly denied links with bomb attacks on British forces.

Load-Date: October 17, 2005

Rice in London for Iran talks;

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IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 16, 2005 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION Correction Appended

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A19

Length: 703 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

St. Patrick's Day is here. But Sinn Fein - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - is being snubbed this week by the White House. Even a Boston Irishman like Sen. Ted Kennedy is turning up his nose.

For the first time since 1995, Sinn Fein leaders won't be invited to the White House for shamrock celebrations. The reason: The IRA has turned from fighting for a political cause to barroom brawls and bank heists. And Sinn Fein, whose leaders have been "outed" as IRA leaders, can't escape responsibility for IRA crimes.

IRA "hard men" are still reluctant to give up their arms in a verifiable fashion, despite the 1998 Good Friday peace accord between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The IRA stands accused of robbing a bank in the Irish Republic of \$50 million in December. Other IRA members used knives to slit the throat of Catholic Robert McCartney in a Belfast bar on Jan. 30.

To paraphrase U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D., Mass.), a longtime Sinn Fein supporter, the Irish republican movement seems to have "morphed into the mob."

Time was when residents of Belfast's Catholic slums were grateful to the IRA, which fought for Catholic rights and defended them against vicious attacks by Protestant militias. But times have changed.

The Good Friday accords are temporarily frozen, but sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has halted. The economy is booming, and unemployment has dropped to 4.7 percent, as investment rises. There are excellent prospects for stronger economic and political ties between Northern Ireland and the prosperous Irish Republic. People don't want to live in the past.

So when the five sisters of the murdered Robert McCartney decided to break the code of silence Catholics normally observe about IRA activities, they got support in their community. The sisters called on the IRA to stop protecting the killers. The White House invited the McCartneys to the St. Paddy's Day party instead of Northern Irish political leaders. Even Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has praised the women.

But none of the 70 witnesses to the murder - including two Sinn Fein political candidates - has gone to the police.

IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The IRA did ask the McCartneys whether they wanted the organization to handle the matter. It offered to shoot the offenders. The sisters angrily declined. The fact that such an offer could be made, in this day and age, in Europe, shows how out of touch the IRA has become.

Despite a bitter history of British repression, of discrimination by Protestants against Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite the anti-Catholic bigotry of Protestant leader Ian Paisley, the age of bullets has been replaced by the time of ballots.

Catholics now have a legitimate way to address grievances and seek power. Sinn Fein has gained strength as a political party in Northern Ireland and in the republic. In the words of Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's special envoy on Northern Ireland: "There's no place in 2005 in Europe for a private army associated with a political party."

Reiss called for the IRA to disband. But what is most important is whether the IRA gives up its guns.

"It doesn't matter [if the IRA is disbanded] if it doesn't carry out criminal activity," says Paul Murphy, British secretary of state for Northern Ireland. "Those days are gone. Sinn Fein must go down an exclusively political road."

Several thousand miles away, the militant Lebanese group Hezbollah is facing a similar choice. As it showed by turning out 500,000 demonstrators, Hezbollah is a major political force in Lebanon - on the streets and in parliament. But the group, which has carried out terrorist operations in the past, insists on keeping its armed militia, despite U.S. and United Nations calls for it to disarm.

Surely, Northern Ireland is more politically advanced than Lebanon. Even Gerry Adams has said he hopes the IRA will disband, but "in a dignified way."

Surely old republican fighters can find other employ than becoming a new mafia. It's time for Sinn Fein and its supporters to demand that the IRA become the Old Comrades Association and to pension its members off.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com. Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 8, 2005

End of Document

Good news from Gaza

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A20

Length: 756 words

Byline: National Post

Body

This week, Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) reached agreement on a plan to destroy 1,600 homes belonging to Jewish settlers following their evacuation from the Gaza Strip this summer. As diplomatic milestones go, this one may seem modest. But given the ongoing terrorism, and the atmosphere of mistrust it has engendered, it counts as good news that the two sides have been able to agree on anything at all.

Israel's reasons for supporting the demolition of Jewish homes is obvious: If the structures were left standing, the Hamas banner would soon flutter above them, and the terrorists would cast the handover of Gaza as a military defeat imposed on Israel -- in much the same way as Hezbollah (more credibly) cast the 2000 Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon as a similar triumph. Of course, there would be no truth to this propaganda campaign: Having destroyed most of Hamas' infrastructure and killed many of its top leaders, Israel is leaving Gaza on its own terms. But in the war on terrorism, optics are important, and Israel is correct to ensure its withdrawal is not turned into a propaganda victory for its enemies.

It may seem odd that the Palestinians also support the demolition of Israeli homes in Gaza. But they have their own good reasons. The Gaza Strip is one of the most crowded places on the face of the planet, and so the Palestinian leadership is eager to replace the sprawling Israeli suburban-style communities with high-density apartment complexes. If the houses were left standing, moreover, it is likely they would simply become a prize to be fought over by terrorists and corrupt PA apparatchiks.

Going forward, there are many other obstacles that must be confronted. Most notably, how will Israel prevent a quasi-sovereign Gaza strip from becoming a haven for terrorists, as southern Lebanon became a haven for Hezbollah? Even now, with Israel maintaining complete control over who comes in and out of Gaza, terrorists attack nearby Israeli communities with crude, home-made rockets. If Israel relinquished control of Gaza's beaches, port facilities and airspace, Hamas would likely import all manner of missiles, anti-tank weapons and sophisticated explosives. Eventually, the threat would grow to the point that Israel would have no choice but to reoccupy Gaza.

In the short-term, Israel will therefore have no option but to retain control of all air, land and sea traffic into Gaza. Only once the PA has demonstrated that it can control the territory, and that it is committed to eradicating terrorism, should Israel hand over border operations to Palestinian officials.

But will that ever happen? Until now, efforts at peacemaking have largely been a one-way street, with Israel proposing to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank while the PA dithers over how hard a line to take

Good news from Gaza

against Hamas and its ilk. Just as worrying is the continuing drumbeat of hate propaganda against Jews in mosques and in the official Palestinian media. According to the Israeli watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch, there has been a decrease in hateful messages of late. But they have not been eliminated. This week, for instance, PA TV broadcast a dramatic presentation that encourages children to aspire to "martyrdom." In one segment, a child en route to such a fate tells his teary mother: "Don't cry, my mother! Let me go and fight for the sake of the homeland. The enemy stole our beautiful land ... We all must fight in order to redeem the lost paradise ... We lived in joy and happiness, until the foreign enemy came and expelled us from our land, and we became refugees in tents. But we will return, by Allah's will!"

The effect of this propaganda is borne out in such piteous scenes as the one that unfolded this week at a Gaza border crossing, where a distraught Palestinian woman was caught with a suicide vest containing 10 kilograms of explosives. The would-be terrorist, who had previously been burned in a domestic accident, was traveling to scheduled medical treatment at an Israeli hospital -- and some believe her aim was to blow up fellow patients, a particularly hideous mission.

Brainwashed by Palestinian propaganda, and exploited by terrorists -- who have apparently become so desperate for recruits that they are now preying on female burn victims -- she declared that "my dream was to become a martyr."

This week's agreement on Gaza is good news for the short-run. But while hateful attitudes are prevalent among Palestinians, there is little chance of creating a truly enduring peace.

Load-Date: June 22, 2005

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WOMAN BOMBER'S CARNAGE

The Mirror

January 28, 2002, Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 252 words

Byline: Jeffrey Heller

Highlight: BODY: Bomber yesterday

Body

THE first woman Palestinian suicide bomber killed an elderly man and left dozens injured yesterday.

The woman detonated explosives in Jaffa Street - the main shopping area of West Jerusalem.

In the third attack on an Israeli city centre in less than a week, an 81-year -old Israeli was killed outside a shoe shop at midday.

Many shop windows were blown out and one store caught fire.

Three people were seriously hurt and more than 100 were treated for injuries and shock.

American visitor, Mark Sokolov, 43, who survived the World Trade Center atrocity was hurt in the blast with his wife and two daughters.

He said: "I heard a loud whoosh and I saw things flying around and I realised I was able to get up and walk around."

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing. But while the Palestinian Authority "strongly condemned the suicide attack" Israel blamed their leader Yasser Arafat for not doing enough to curb terrorism.

Israel said it would consider a military response to the bombing.

The Palestinian Authority called for US envoy Anthony Zinni to return to the area immediately.

But US Vice President Dick Cheney said Arafat must "make a 100 per cent good faith effort to put an end to terrorism. So far he hasn't done that."

WOMAN BOMBER'S CARNAGE

A TV station run by the militant **Hezbollah** movement in Lebanon named the bomber as Shinaz Amuri, a student in the West Bank town of Nablus.

She was the first **female** bomber to carry out a fatal attack in Israel in the 16 -month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

The Good That Could Come From Sharon's Gaza Gambit; FAR AND AWAY

The Forward

February 13, 2004

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Section: Forward Forum; Pg. 7

Length: 1316 words

Byline: Scott Lasensky

Body

Supporters of Israel, not to mention Israelis themselves, are trying to make sense of Prime Minister Sharon's recent announcement about plans to dismantle Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. At first glance, it's easy to be unenthusiastic about such a unilateral step. But a deeper analysis reveals a range of benefits, prominent among them that such a move could save Israeli lives and improve the long-term prospects for a negotiated settlement.

Why is there so much unease? First, the idea of evacuating settlements in Gaza holds a false promise. Even if Sharon follows through, Israel will need to remain engaged in the day-to-day affairs of Gazans - most prominently by maintaining a robust military presence at the border with Egypt, the boundaries with Israel and on the coast. Longtime opponents of the occupation wonder why they should get their hopes up if Sharon's promise is not tantamount to a withdrawal from Gaza.

Second, Sharon's proposal will not end Palestinian terrorism, not even in Gaza. In fact, in the short term, acts of violence may increase. Which leads to the third reason for unease: a potential security vacuum. In the immediate aftermath of such an evacuation the winners are likely to be Palestinian extremists, not Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and the moderates who are still willing to negotiate a two-state settlement.

Fourth, it is hard to see how removing 7,500 Israeli civilian settlers from Gaza promotes the peace process. The current American-backed peace initiative, the "road map," does not require such dramatic action from Israel. Moreover, Sharon's version of unilateralism carries the scent of disdain for resuming serious diplomacy with the Palestinians. Fifth, some fret that unilateral settlement evacuation in Gaza will "reward" Palestinian terrorism and damage Israeli deterrence. Sixth, cynics of all political stripes see Sharon's announcement as nothing more than a flagrant move to escape the darkening cloud of political scandal.

But scratch the surface and the potential merits of Sharon's initiative come into view. First, bringing the Gaza settlers back to Israel will save lives. Too many settlers, including children, have been killed, and too many soldiers have died in the last three years protecting settlements that most Israelis know serve no strategic or national purpose.

Second, removal of the settlements will be a morale booster for Israel's military. For the most part, Israeli soldiers have demonstrated a remarkable sense of commitment and unity. For example, very few have signed onto the public protest petitions circulated by soldiers who oppose Israeli policies in the territories. But there is a growing sense of weariness. Above all else, it is missions like guarding Gaza's settlers - one of the deadliest jobs of the occupation - that most demoralizes Israeli soldiers (and infuriates their parents).

The Good That Could Come From Sharon's Gaza Gambit FAR AND AWAY

Third, removing settlers from Gaza could give a boost to Israel's standing in the international arena. By providing unequivocal evidence that Israel's actions in the territories are rooted in a drive for security and defense, rather than in territorial aggrandizement, Sharon's proposal would make defending Israel on the international stage a great deal easier.

Fourth, a unilateral evacuation will not come at the expense of Israel's deterrent power. In fact, concerns about deterrence are largely misplaced. Let's not forget that traditional deterrence does not work with suicide terrorists (one of the gravest, but not the only Palestinian threat to Israeli security).

To those who still regret Ehud Barak's hasty and inelegant withdrawal from Lebanon, and who believe that Palestinians adopted Hezbollah's strategies and goals, the thought of another unilateral move raises alarms. But the withdrawal from Lebanon relieved Israel of a problem that did more to erode deterrence than promote it. Moreover, Lebanon is not Gaza. If a civilian presence in Gaza is not Israel's ultimate objective, withdrawing the settlers merely transforms Israel's remaining presence into a more rational, more strategic posture.

True, withdrawing the settlers could throw the Israeli political scene into upheaval, but it won't destroy Israeli deterrence. (Whether Sharon's prisoner exchange with Hezbollah damaged Israeli deterrence is another matter.)

Fifth, Sharon's proposal could unexpectedly pave the ground for future negotiations. Even if the prime minister's ulterior motive in relinquishing Gaza is to tighten Israel's grip on the West Bank, by removing this source of friction he could unleash a series of events that ultimately favor a resumption of negotiations. True, Palestinian extremists might gain in the short term, but the inevitable security vacuum will also increase demands for international intervention, perhaps along the lines of the proposal by former U.S. ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk for an American-led trusteeship.

There's no guarantee the net effect ultimately will promote a peaceful settlement, but that's no reason to stick with the status quo. Is anything worse than the current mix of an intensifying Israeli occupation, thousands of deaths and growing anarchy in the Palestinian territories.

Finally (and most relevant to readers of this paper), Sharon's initiative has the potential to revive the debate in this country about America's role in Israel's future. With the collapse of the Oslo process, the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada and then the horror of 9/11, supporters of Israel in America turned to campaigns of unity and solidarity, and old habits like media vigilance, instead of pursuing an open and vigorous debate about what Israel might do to end its worst period of violence since the founding of the state.

A serious debate about the American role has also been missing. Rather than consider what Washington can do to end Palestinian violence against Israel (or address the increasing threat from Hezbollah), most of the pro-Israel leadership has only sought blank checks and blanket immunity for the Jewish state. Some community advocates may prefer a Bush administration that acts like Israel's bodyguard, but what rank-and-file supporters really desire (along with, ironically, many of Israel's leading strategic thinkers) is an American ally that behaves more like a big brother.

Remember the bodyguard from your schoolyard days? The big, tough guy ready to swing fists at any sign of provocation. The role of a bodyguard begins and ends with protection. But a big brother must also keep his ward's best interests at heart. The bodyguard deals only with present, visible dangers, but a big brother also keeps an eye on the horizon.

Stop for a moment and consider this fact. More Israelis - men, women and children - have been killed or injured in the last three years than in any comparable period since Israel's founding. Still, many supporters of Israel inside the Beltway continue to lobby against a more active American role.

Rather than a bodyguard like George W. Bush, what Israel really needs is a friend like Bill Clinton, or even Richard Nixon - American leaders willing to extend whatever Israel needed for its defense, and to put America's military might behind Israel, but at the same time ready to encourage leaders in Jerusalem to take reasoned and responsible risks for peace.

The Good That Could Come From Sharon's Gaza Gambit FAR AND AWAY

As the merits of Sharon's Gaza proposal continue to be debated, Israel's advocates should consider whether their preference for the status quo - particularly America's do-nothing diplomacy - is truly in Israel's long-term interests, or whether it is simply the function of misplaced frustration about the ever-worsening social, economic, political and security challenges facing Israel today.

Scott Lasensky, who has served as a fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations, is a professor of international relations at Mount Holyoke College.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

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Honoring womankind at Southern Illinois U.

University Wire

March 5, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Daily Egyptian via U-Wire

Length: 757 words

Byline: By Jane Huh, Daily Egyptian; **SOURCE:** Southern Illinois U.

Dateline: CARBONDALE, Ill.

Body

The message was clear: The struggle for women's rights has a long way to go.

The Southern Illinois University Museum Auditorium brought a series of global concerns to light Wednesday, celebrating International Women's Day five days early due to next week's spring break.

From Zambia to Thailand, the daylong program featured a diverse representation of the modern women's movement.

The series of events highlighted the crisis of children in Southern Africa, who live and work off the streets to support their families or themselves and compared of the legal system of Bangladesh and the United States in tackling domestic violence cases.

"The International Women's Day is a platform for women activists to highlight what they are doing, what issues are important to them, where should they be working next, where should their focus be next," said Naseem Ahmed, coordinator of International Development.

Edith Ngoma, a consultant for the Canada-based Street Kids International, shared her story on working with street children in Zambia, Namibia and South Africa for about 10 years. Street children are youths who live and/or work off the streets to survive on their own or to support the family's income.

The organization works with various non-governmental organizations to empower these children and their guardians through education and loans. Ahmed said children's issues go hand in hand with women's issues.

"If we think about it, issues of children, children's health, children's nutrition, children's diseases are also issues of women naturally. It is a well-researched assertion that women -- when they are empowered, when they earn a living, when they begin to have some income -- they spend almost all their income on their family and children as opposed to male partners, who put some money on the family but also take care of his pleasures."

Michelle Miller, assistant professor of sociology, and Sheila Simon, assistant professor of law, shared their observations after nine days of spending time in five shelters in Bangladesh with Kathryn Ward, professor of sociology. Even though Bangladesh and the United States deal with disparate cultural and economic factors, the victimization of women is prevalent worldwide, Miller said.

Miller and Simon met with the dean of Dhaka University's law department, who is drafting the country's first statute against domestic violence.

Honoring womankind at Southern Illinois U.

Amoneeta Beckstein was one of two males present during the segment. The senior majoring in psychology from Summertime, Tenn., asked what students could do to help the cause. Simon said attending more events like Wednesday's is a good start and encouraged students to begin educating themselves about other cultures.

"We have an awful record of being aware of other cultures," she said.

Between the lectures, two short films gave the audience a deeper glimpse into the global obstacles to women's rights. "Women of Hezbollah" profiles two Muslim women who share their feelings about their activist role in Hezbollah, a fundamentalist organization. The other film, "Sisters and Daughters Betrayed," sparked a desire for one student to take a proactive step in reaching out.

Kristin Abaonza, a sophomore in pre-med from Marion, said the film educated her about the extent of Thailand's human trafficking of sex workers.

"I was talking to [Ward] about doing something like that, helping out in a way," Abaonza said. "I don't know how much time I would have, but it would definitely be something after seeing the video something that I'd be interested in. [The film] makes me want to do something to help."

"Sisters and Daughters Betrayed" explores recruitment of young girls for sex work in Southeast Asia. The film cites the Vietnam War as one of the main triggers of Thailand's thriving "R&R" business. "R&R," or "rest and recreation," is synonymous with sexual entertainment for U.S. military servicemen.

International Programs and Services, the College of Liberal Arts and the Women's Studies Program sponsored Wednesday's celebration of International Women's Day.

Abaonza said the early campus celebration of International Women's Day opened up her mind about a subject that matters to her.

"I want to see things in a different perspective internationally," she said. "I know there's a lot of feelings toward feminist movements and female rights here in America. But seeing it from an international perspective, it changes everything because so many countries are underprivileged, and their economies are completely different from ours."

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Load-Date: March 5, 2004

AP dismisses reporter over mystery sources

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

October 23, 2002 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2002 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 12A

Length: 291 words

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The Associated Press has fired a reporter after learning that more than three dozen of his stories contained quotations from experts whose existence could not be verified.

Several of the stories, or portions of them, appeared in the St. Petersburg Times.
Compiled from Times Wires

The reporter, Christopher Newton, was dismissed Sept. 16 after the AP received inquiries about a Sept. 9 story on 2001 federal crime statistics. A brief version of the story printed in the Times included an incorrect figure for the percentage of criminals who use guns. The correct figure was 9 percent.

Before his dismissal, Newton was asked about questionable material in a number of his stories. He maintained that the experts in those stories were real and accurately quoted, but was unwilling or unable to provide proof.

Newton had worked for the AP since 1994 in Texas, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

The AP found 40 stories that contained quotations from individuals who cannot be located. Most were identified by Newton as having academic or public policy credentials.

In addition to the Sept. 9 piece on crime statistics, five other stories by Newton appeared in the Times:

- + A piece about female school superintendents headlined "Women still absent from top school jobs," published on Nov. 8, 2000, quoted a "Jocelyn Winters."
- + " 'Cell phone' radar can see stealth jets," from June 21, 2001, quoted "Hugh Brownstone, a physicist at the Intergon Research Center." AP was also unable to locate the center.
- + "Bush promises to help veterans" from Aug. 21, 2001, quoted "Patrick Delraj."
- + "Citizenship interest up 65% since Sept. 11," which appeared July 17, quoted "Irma Gonzales."
- + "U.S. observes al-Qaida contact with Hezbollah," of July 27, quoted "Janice Paine."

Load-Date: October 23, 2002

AP dismisses reporter over mystery sources

End of Document

Honour is Iraq's secret weapon

Sunday Times (London)

March 30, 2003, Sunday

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Section: Features; News; 25

Length: 1177 words

Byline: Hala Jaber, Baghdad

Body

British and American troops were led to expect open arms and warm embraces when they arrived to "liberate" Iraq, particularly in the south, which was supposed to be a hotbed of opposition to the regime. But there have been bullets instead of flowers. Why?

Tony Blair believes it is because the Shi'ites of southern Iraq, let down by the West when they rebelled against Saddam Hussein after the last Gulf war, do not yet trust the Anglo-American forces to protect them. Allied officers seem to believe that the residents will at last dance in the streets of Basra once the local "remnants of the regime" have been destroyed.

They are deluded. Iraqis, including the Shi'ites, fight not to save Saddam Hussein but to defend their honour.

America and Britain may believe their war symbolises liberation from Saddam, but for many Iraqis the allied forces are invaders desecrating their country's honour and dignity. This is an unforgivable sin in Iraq's culture. Land and territory are as sacred as the honour of women and occupation is as vile, shameful and abominable as rape.

Iraqis may not like their president but they believe that America threatens them with aggression on a scale not previously known to mankind.

Consequently, the Iraqi leader and his officials have not tried to rally support around the ideology of the ruling Ba'ath party. Instead, they have cast the war as a jihad in defence of the homeland. Saddam has worked hard to rally the nation behind a sense of patriotism. Many say that he has succeeded.

That Iraqis may wish for the present regime to change is not in question. That they dream of democracy and transparency is hardly in doubt. But in the face of foreign invasion, internal political differences are put aside. Arab tribes, Ba'ath party members and religious sects have united under one banner, faith and culture - that of patriotism.

The Arab saying, "My brother and I against our cousin, and my cousin and I against the enemy", comes to mind - as it did 21 years ago when I reported from Lebanon as Israel invaded under the pretext of liberating the country's south from Palestinian forces.

It did not take long for the Shi'ites of south Lebanon to begin a campaign of resistance and Hezbollah was born. Despite its Islamic ideologies, it managed to rally and unite the Lebanese, including its harshest Christian foes and critics, behind the struggle against the Israelis. As with Iraqis now, land, honour and the country's integrity were the common elements that brought them together.

Honour is Iraq 's secret weapon

It was guerrilla warfare that eventually drained the Israelis. Every attempt to penalise the entire country through aerial bombardment only rallied more support for Hezbollah.

I recall the leader of Hezbollah once telling me that while they knew they were no match for Israel in any conventional military manner, they would nevertheless be a constant irritant, "just like the pestering mosquitoes: we will continue to buzz and bite whenever and wherever we can until they eventually leave us alone".

Israel had failed to read the Lebanese psyche and in particular that of the Shi'ites, just as the Americans have failed to understand the real mentality of the Iraqi people, their history and nature.

Some put this down to the lack of reliable intelligence coming from Iraq over the years. Having mostly received information from the Iraqi opposition - who may have wanted an invasion so much that they intentionally misled the Americans about the likely reaction - the West has failed to absorb the mood of the people here or even to understand the images now coming out on television.

Footage of Shi'ite Muslims dancing around the dead bodies of British soldiers in Basra was offensive to say the least, yet this was no dance of contempt for the dead or a sign that the Shi'ites of Basra had turned into fundamentalists bent on killing the "infidels".

It may be incomprehensible for many in the West, but for the Iraqis this was an expression of triumph - triumph in the fact that despite the awesome military superiority of the coalition, the "invaders" were not invincible.

Saddam has been playing on this shrewdly on television. The names of overnight heroes - including the elderly "brave peasant" said to have downed an Apache helicopter with an old Czech rifle, and a southern woman who destroyed an armoured personnel carrier - were announced in press conferences given daily by Iraqi ministers with updates from the "battlefield".

In a speech, Saddam read a roll call of honour naming commanders and their locations, including the port of Umm Qasr, which has rapidly gained legendary status as a tiny town doggedly resisting the world's mightiest army.

Despite the bombing of Iraq's main television and satellite stations, the country continued to be fed hour after hour footage of dead US soldiers, prisoners of war and the charred remains of American tanks - together with reams of old footage of Saddam and new montages of Iraqi history and the Iraq-Iran war.

News broadcasts repeatedly showed images of anti-war demonstrations around the globe and extracts from an interview with Robin Cook after his resignation from the cabinet. Also on the television screens, clerics brandishing AK-47s have called for jihad.

No matter what George Bush or Blair may say, no liberation pretext or sentiment of compassion has swayed the Iraqis from the belief that this is a war of colonial occupation for the benefit of Israel, to curb Iraq's potential as a regional superpower and to win control of its oil.

Many Iraqis are ashamed of their country's invasion of Kuwait, but they are also weary of paying the price, in sanctions and poverty, for that debacle. They are also convinced the war is not related to weapons of mass destruction and Saddam's "alleged threat to international security".

They watched as Saddam made what they saw as concessions - from allowing UN inspectors back into their country to the "demeaning" destruction of al-Samoud 2 missiles, which many saw as a legitimate weapon of self-defence - and became convinced that despite all Iraq's compromises, the United States and Britain were set on war.

It is worth remembering that for most Iraqis history is repeating itself. They have been taught that the Iraqis liberated their country from British occupation after the first world war against heavy military odds at the cost of thousands of lives.

Honour is Iraq 's secret weapon

The Israeli-Palestinian issue also plays a major role in Iraqi distrust. Many blame Britain for the creation of the state of Israel, and the Bush administration's strong support for Ariel Sharon's government adds to the misgivings.

There is another paradoxical motivation behind the Iraqis' continued support for the regime: the fear of civil war. Saddam may be an oppressive tyrant but he has managed to keep the country, with all its tribes, sects and differences, cemented together under one secular banner.

But perhaps most importantly, the Iraqis want to look future generations in the eye and say: "We did go down but we went with dignity and having put up a fight."

Graphic

Focus special; Battle for Iraq; Losing the battle for hearts and minds

Load-Date: March 31, 2003

End of Document

BOMB KILLS 6 & INJURES 84 POWELL POSTPONES MEETING WITH ARAFAT

Daily News (New York)

April 13, 2002, Saturday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;; FRONT PAGE

Length: 728 words

Byline: By THOMAS M. DeFRANK and BRIAN KATES DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Body

A **female** suicide bomber killed six people and wounded at least 84 in a Jerusalem market yesterday, rocking Secretary of State Powell's Mideast mission and prompting him to postpone his meeting today with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The White House quickly condemned the attack, branding it a "homicide bombing," and called on Arafat to denounce terrorism in Arabic so his people would hear the condemnation.

"This is terrorism; this is murder," said Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer. "Today would be a very good day for Yasser Arafat to publicly denounce terrorism and show some statesmanship."

Powell called off his meeting with Arafat, and senior officials said it might be rescheduled for tomorrow.

Powell's spokesman said the secretary "expects a clear denunciation of terrorism" and of yesterday's bombing.

Just hours before the bombing, Powell failed to get Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to agree on a timetable for withdrawing Israeli troops from Palestinian cities and towns. Call, then postponement The decision to postpone the Arafat meeting reportedly came as U.S. Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni met with two key aides, Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

During the meeting, Zinni left to take a telephone call from Powell and did not return, sources said. Afterward, Palestinians said they were informed of the postponement.

By nightfall in Jerusalem, when the Palestinian leader hadn't issued a denunciation, a Bush official noted that "the longer Arafat says nothing, the harder it becomes to justify seeing him."

The bomb erupted near the outdoor Mahane Yehuda market just before the start of the Sabbath, when the streets were packed with shoppers.

Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a faction of Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility, according to a caller to **Hezbollah's** Al Manar TV in Lebanon.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the militant group Hamas, said the bombing was punishment for Israel's military offensive.

BOMB KILLS 6 & INJURES 84 POWELL POSTPONES MEETING WITH ARAFAT

"If Israel thinks that after what they did in Jenin and Nablus they will not be punished, they are mistaken," Yassin said. "This is part of the punishment. They should wait and see. More is coming."

Twenty-five Israelis have been killed in five suicide bombings since Operation Defensive Shield began March 29.

Powell was en route to a helicopter pad about half a mile from yesterday's bomb site and heard the blast. His chopper circled the site several times, then continued to Safed, headquarters of Israel's northern command, to view evidence of Hezbollah attacks along Israel's border with Lebanon.

In his meeting with Sharon, Powell had tried to pry a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal, but with no luck.

"I welcome the efforts that you are making as part of the campaign against terrorism," Powell said in a news conference before the suicide bombing. "But at the same time, we recognize that eventually to reach the kind of solution that is needed, parties must talk, parties must begin negotiations."

Sharon didn't budge.

"Israel is conducting a war against the Palestinian infrastructure of terror and hopes to end it as soon as possible," he said.

In Washington, Bush political aides worried that White House vacillation - on one hand, demanding that Israel pull back; on the other, repeatedly giving Arafat one more chance - could produce a full-blown crisis for his presidency.

"The day-to-day perception is that we're fumbling this one," one aide told the Daily News. Embarrassment feared Powell's initial remarks that the meeting with Arafat would go on were superseded by what one Bush official called "some very deliberate vagueness" by U.S. spokesmen.

But officials increasingly were betting that Arafat has neither the moral backbone nor the political clout to speak out against the terrorism or stop it, raising the specter of yet another embarrassment for a President who a week ago staked his personal prestige on results and has nothing to show for his stern words.

Powell is expected to meet tomorrow in Jerusalem with Red Cross and UN officials on the deteriorating situation on the West Bank, spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Meanwhile in Geneva, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called for a multinational force to stop the violence between Israelis and Palestinians, diplomats said.

Deployment "can no longer be deferred," Annan said. "It is urgent; it is imperative."

Graphic

REUTERS FULL SCHEDULE Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Secretary of State Powell pause before their talks yesterday. AP PENSIVE Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat listens during meeting at his office yesterday.

Load-Date: April 13, 2002

TELLING FRIEND FROM FOE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 16, 2001 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2001 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: NATIONAL,

Length: 1236 words

Byline: JACK KELLY, POST-GAZETTE NATIONAL WRITER

Body

The United States is at war against terrorism. But who is the enemy? And an equally important question, in light of mounting indiscriminate attacks on Arabs, Muslims and even Sikhs in this country, is: Who is not?

Who is the enemy?

The U.S. State Department currently designates 28 organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, and officially accuses seven states -- Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Cuba and North Korea -- of sponsoring terrorism. Despite its current status as terror sponsor No. 1, Afghanistan is not on the list because most of the world does not consider the Taliban movement that controls the country a legitimate government.

Nevertheless, the Taliban are known to provide sanctuary to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire turned terrorist suspected of masterminding Tuesday's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The Taliban are attempting to create what it calls the first "pure" Islamic state. It has banned movies, television and most music. It forbids girls to go to school and women to work outside the home. It has brought back public executions and amputations. It has destroyed ancient statues of Buddha.

The Taliban also have provided training bases for Muslim extremists from the Middle East, the Philippines, Indonesia, Central Asia and China.

The Russian news agency Novosti recently claimed that bin Laden has been named commander-in-chief of the Taliban's armed forces, quoting the Russian foreign ministry as saying, "Pseudo-religious values are being used as a cover to prepare a bridgehead for expansion of militant extremism far beyond the region's borders."

Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world which recognize the Taliban regime. (The others are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.) Pakistan has provided more support than any other country save Afghanistan to bin Laden's organization, Al Qaeda.

Nevertheless, in the wake of last week's attacks on the United States, Pakistan announced yesterday that it would fully cooperate with a multinational assault on terror.

TELLING FRIEND FROM FOE

Of the 28 groups listed as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, 17 are based in Islamic countries. Nine are motivated by radical views of Islam. The membership of even the largest of these organizations is very small compared to the total Muslim population of the countries in which they operate.

The largest organizations listed are Hamas (an acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement) and Hezbollah (Party of God).

Hamas is primarily a secular organization, even though it shares with the Islamists a desire to destroy Israel.

The number of hard-core members of Hamas is unknown, but the State Department says it has "tens of thousands of supporters and sympathizers." Hamas gets most of its money from Palestinian expatriates, Iran, "and private benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states."

Hezbollah operates chiefly out of the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon and the southern suburbs of Beirut. It is the principal Shiite Muslim terrorist group, and has more of a religious motivation than Hamas does. Hezbollah has a membership of several thousand, and gets most of its money from the governments of Iran and Syria, the State Department said.

Al Qaeda was founded by bin Laden in 1990 to bring together the Muslims who fought against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Its goal is to unify and purify all Muslim nations, while driving from all of them any Western influence.

The State Department estimates Al Qaeda's membership at between several hundred and several thousand, but it also serves as an umbrella group for other terrorist organizations. It is financed mostly out of bin Laden's pocket and has links to groups in some 40 countries, providing them training, money and strategy.

Two tiny non-Muslim groups -- the Japanese Red Army and the Basque Liberation Movement in Spain -- have ties to Muslim terror groups. Four others on the State Department list are in Latin America. Two in Colombia are flourishing, while two in Peru are languishing.

Who is not the enemy?

In the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, some Americans have been taking out their ire on Muslims in this country, and on people they mistake for Muslims. A mosque north of Dallas was firebombed. An Arab-American gas station in Chicago was attacked with a machete. Muslim women have been jostled and threatened. A Sikh (Sikhs are not Muslim) in New York City was assaulted with a baseball bat.

* Muslims There are about a billion Muslims in the world, the largest single religious grouping on the planet. The religion began on the Arabian peninsula. But while most Arabs are Muslims, most Muslims are not Arabs.

The largest number of Muslims in a single country, about 198 million, are Indonesians. Pakistan, with about 146 million non-Arab Muslims, is the next largest predominately Muslim country.

As Christendom is divided between Catholics and Protestants, Islam is divided between Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims. About 90 percent of Muslims are Sunni Muslims. Shiite Muslims are concentrated in Iran and in southeastern Iraq but also reside in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Though there is little love lost between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, they tend to see eye to eye on Israel and the United States. The big divide in the Muslim world is between radical Islamists and the majority of more moderate Muslims.

Islamists are those who wish to impose the Sharia (Islamic law) on all who live in their societies. The more radical among them also maintain that the Muslim holy book, the Koran, sanctions the killing of Jews and other "infidels." Most Muslims say the Koran forbids both murder and suicide bombings.

TELLING FRIEND FROM FOE

Islamists account for perhaps 10 percent of Muslims. But they control the governments in Afghanistan and Sudan, exert powerful influence in Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon and Algeria, and are a significant and growing force in Egypt.

Even among Islamists, those who wish to impose the Sharia by force and impose it upon infidels are a small minority. Many Islamists oppose the Taliban and say the harshness of the regime stems more from Afghan tribal customs than from Islam.

The governments of Iraq, Syria and Libya are secular, but often make common cause with the Islamists because they share a hatred of Israel and America.

* Arabs Most Arabs are Muslim, but about 10 percent are Christian or Druze, found chiefly in Lebanon, Syria, Israel and Palestinian-controlled territories. The Druze religion is an offshoot of Islam, heavily influenced by Gnostic Christianity.

Arabs, narrowly defined, were nomadic tribes of the Arabian peninsula, but the term has come to apply to all who speak Arabic. The Arab homelands stretch from western Morocco, south to the Sudan, north to Turkey (although Turks are not Arabs), and east to Iraq.

Most Arabs have dark hair, brown eyes and light skin, but some are black and some are white. There are, all told, about 250 million Arabs, of whom 4 million live in Europe and 2 million in the United States and Canada. Most Americans of Arab descent are Christians, not Muslims.

* Sikhs Sikhs are not Muslims. The religion, begun about 500 years ago in northern India, is sort of a monotheistic version of Hinduism. Sikhs have been persecuted by Hindus and Muslims, and are not, in general, especially fond of either. A bearded man wearing a turban in the United States is likely Sikh, not Muslim.

Notes

THE ATTACK ON AMERICA

Load-Date: September 18, 2001

End of Document

The World'S Most Elusive Terrorist

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 11, 2001 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: ATTACK ON TERRORISM; Pg. B03; Attack on Terrorism News

Length: 1104 words

Byline: Robin Wright

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

He is perhaps the world's most elusive terrorist, an enigmatic figure who plotted bloody attacks a full decade before Osama bin Laden's allies carried out their first assault, a man who orchestrated the Middle East's first suicide bombings and a seven-year epidemic of hostage seizures.

Imad Mughniyah is The Other Terrorist. The "security chief" of Lebanon's *Hezbollah*, Mughniyah is also the face of the broader U.S. war on terrorism -- and the new symbol of the difficulties the United States faces in pursuing that campaign outside Afghanistan.

"Mughniyah is not just a mastermind, he's the master terrorist," said a U.S. counterterrorism official. "He introduced many of the tactics that others use to this day. The United States has been trying to nab him since the early 1980s, but he's evaded capture every time we got close. We're not even sure what he looks like anymore."

Los Angeles Times

Mughniyah (pronounced Moog-NEE-yah) won a place on the FBI's new most-wanted terrorists list for the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847 as it flew from Athens to Rome. In a particularly bizarre act of air piracy, the plane shuttled 13,300 kilometres across the Mediterranean Sea, over three days, between Beirut, Lebanon, and Algiers in North Africa.

During one stop in Beirut, the hijackers took U.S. navy diver Robert Stethem to the door of the plane, forced him to kneel, then shot him in the head and dumped his body onto the tarmac. Ultimately, passengers and crew became hostages on the ground in Beirut for two weeks before they were released and the hijackers escaped.

Authorities say Mughniyah was involved in several even more violent incidents.

He allegedly plotted the 1983 attack on U.S. marine peacekeepers in Lebanon. A suicide driver drove a yellow Mercedes truck laden with the equivalent of 5,400 kilograms of explosives into the marine battalion headquarters, a four-storey concrete compound on the perimeter of Beirut's international airport.

The 241 military personnel killed in the attack represented the largest death toll for the U.S. military in a single incident since Vietnam. The troops were eventually withdrawn, and the United States abandoned its Lebanon peace initiative.

The World'S Most Elusive Terrorist

U.S. officials also charge that Mughniyah personally ordered the capture of dozens of western hostages, including many Americans, between 1984 and 1991 in Lebanon. Attempts to negotiate a secret deal with Iran to free hostages resulted in the embarrassing Iran-Contra debacle, the secret arms-for-hostages swap that sparked congressional investigations and the resignation of several top officials in the Reagan administration.

Mughniyah was also linked to the 1983 and 1984 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Beirut in which 77 died and hundreds were injured.

Until the 1998 bombings by bin Laden's network of two U.S. embassies in Africa, Mughniyah was the world's most wanted terrorist. He's been charged under a sealed indictment in U.S. District Court since 1985 -- three years before bin Laden even formed his al-Qaeda terrorist group.

Mughniyah and bin Laden are alike in many ways. They share a common rage at the West, particularly the United States, for perceived oppression of Muslim lands and peoples. They both want to purge the Middle East of U.S. troops and political influence.

And both have had state support: bin Laden is dependent on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, while Mughniyah has received aid and encouragement from Iran, where he still travels frequently under the aegis of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the regime's hardliners, according to U.S. counterterrorism officials.

But the Islamic world's two foremost extremists are also strikingly different -- and a reflection of the wide diversity within the world of terror.

A rich Saudi exile, bin Laden funds a coterie of Islamic militants who have formed a worldwide network. The network's attacks are believed carried out without his direct participation. Mughniyah, who grew up in the poor Shiite suburbs of Beirut, carried out many of the acts himself, including the TWA hijacking. He has operated almost exclusively in Lebanon and against neighbouring Israel.

Mughniyah has also lived in the shadows of terrorism, not issuing manifestoes, making threats or commenting to the media about his enemies or his agents, as bin Laden has. Some reports claim he's had plastic surgery at least twice to conceal his identity, although U.S. officials are skeptical. And he flits between Lebanon and Iran to keep the manhunt off-guard.

The two extremists' goals and world views also vary, in part because of they belong to different sects of Islam. Bin Laden is a Sunni Muslim, the mainstream sect, although he is a follower of the 18th century cleric Mohammed Wahhab, who preached that the faith should return to the purity of its 7th century roots. Mughniyah is a Shiite Muslim, which accounts for about 15 per cent of the world's one billion Muslims.

"There's often an assumption that all these guys fit on the same team, but in fact these two particularly are poles apart even if they share the same hostility to the United States," said Augustus Richard Norton, a former UN officer in Lebanon who is now a Boston University political scientist. "Bin Laden seeks a state that is puritanical in social mores and is hostile to any notion of rights for women. He has an exclusivist conception of Islam that has little room for other people, including Christians and Jews.

"Mughniyah, on the other hand, allows for a more enlightened role for women in society and a less restrictive meaning of Islam and its adaptability to modernity. Shiism as interpreted in Lebanon and Iran is much more in tune with coexistence with (other) people."

Mughniyah's Iranian mentors also view the neighbouring Taliban as a major threat.

In contrast to bin Laden, Mughniyah has been less active recently, U.S. officials say.

Over the past decade, since the end of Lebanon's civil war in 1990, Mughniyah's primary target was Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. In 1992, Mughniyah was indicted in Argentina for a role in the bombing of the Israeli embassy, which killed 115.

The World'S Most Elusive Terrorist

Israel withdrew from Lebanon last year and terrorism there has almost disappeared. Hezbollah since 1992 has also emerged from the underground and focused on legitimate politics, including winning seats in Lebanon's parliament.

"Hezbollah has had things going its way politically," said a U.S. counterterrorism official. "It's now an accepted part of the political establishment, so why mess that up? But (Mughniyah's) apparatus is still there -- and still available. He can still use it again, should he feel the need."

Graphic

Photo: Knight-Ridder Photos; TWA Flight 847 pilot John Testrake answers journalists' questions from the cockpit as a hijacker holds a gun to his head. Imad Mughniyah took part in this daring and bloody hijacking and has been sought by authorities ever since. However, he remains free and has not been seen for almost a decade.

Load-Date: November 5, 2001

End of Document

He backs suicide bombers, sponsors terrorism, tramples on human rights and is said to be arming Iraq. So why the red carpet for Syria's President?

DAILY MAIL (London)

December 16, 2002

Copyright 2002 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 10

Length: 1185 words

Byline: Melanie Phillips

Body

WHEN President George W. Bush declared his 'war on terror', he effectively announced that the practice of cosyng up to state sponsors of terrorism was now at an end.

Tony Blair is supposed to be America's ally in this struggle.

Yet today he is rolling out the red carpet for a man who sits at the very epicentre of terror, the Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Terror is absolutely central to Syria's policy. It sponsors Hezbollah in Lebanon, which not only carries out terror attacks against Israel, but before September 11 had killed more Americans than any other terrorist group.

At a rally in Lebanon last month, Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, called on Palestinians to 'take suicide bombings worldwide'. Yet the man being feted in London this week has forged a far closer relationship with Hezbollah even than his father, the late President Hafiz al-Assad.

Syria also hosts the headquarters of Islamic Jihad and numerous other terrorist organisations.

As Damascus radio said earlier this year: 'Syria has turned its land into a training camp, a safe haven and an arms depot for the Palestinian revolutionaries.' Last week in an interview with The Times, President Assad declared that he actually supported Palestinian 'suicide' bombers. Yet this is the man who will dine with the Prime Minister in Downing Street today, meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace tomorrow and later attend the Lord Mayor's dinner. Gullible As a Jew who believes that Israel is a principal victim of the terror sponsored by Syria and others, I am appalled by this honouring of a man with so much blood on his hands.

But many others must also be wondering just what is going on.

The answer is that President Assad is New Labour's kind of guy. He and his wife have great PR because, hey, they don't even look or sound like Arabs.

The President is an ophthalmologist who studied medicine in England, no less. Mrs Assad is actually an Englishwoman who started life as plain Emma from West London.

The Times reported that he didn't look like a ruthless dictator - no doubt because he didn't sport military fatigues, or goosestep across the room.

He backs suicide bombers, sponsors terrorism, tramples on human rights and is said to be arming Iraq . So why the red carpet for Syria 's President?

But, of course, far from being a New Labour dream, the Assads are the first family of a backward country with a dire economy, an absence of human rights and a second-class status for women.

Yet this charmer with the bedside manner has apparently beguiled the Prime Minister into believing that here is a man who is going to lead Syria out of the dark ages and with whom Britain can, therefore, do business. Just how gullible can you get?

This state visit is presumably intended as a reward for President Assad's support for the UN resolution on Iraq. But this was clearly a tactical manoeuvre.

In November, Syria's Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar, revealed that it had voted for the resolution to divide President Bush's administration and prevent war against Iraq.

In other words, this was a spoiling exercise. And indeed, in last week's interview, President Assad warned that the campaign to topple Saddam would have 'catastrophic consequences' for the region.

Now, intelligence sources are claiming that Syria is actually surreptitiously arming Iraq. It is reported that more than 52 crates containing new airdefence systems and spare parts have been smuggled from Syria into Iraq since last December, enabling the Iraqis to upgrade their air defence capabilities. And Syria is also said to have allowed Saddam to open an oil smuggling route through the port of Latakia.

Well, what a surprise. But do many in Britain actually care?

For a disturbing number of people still can't see the point of taking military action against Saddam Hussein. They think there is no link between the Iraqi dictator and Al Qaeda, and so he poses no terror threat to the West.

I happen to believe such a link does exist. But even if it did not, the threat from Saddam is still plain. He repeatedly declares his intention to become leader of the Arab world. Weapons of mass destruction would help him achieve this ambition. Hubris This would mean that despite his secularism he would become leader of the Islamic jihad. The people who brought us September 11 would then be equipped with biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

Mr Blair has grasped that we cannot sit by and wait for this to happen.

Hence his support for President Bush. But this obscures significant differences between the two. For Mr Blair appears to believe that Islamic fascism is susceptible to reason, and, in particular, to the force of his own personality.

This hubris has already led him into humiliation. Last year, shortly after the murder of Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Mr Blair went to Syria to tell President Assad to renounce violence. He got his reply at a Press conference when he was forced to listen to the Syrian leader defend Palestinian terror attacks on Israel.

So why on earth is he honouring this man in this way? The main reason is that he is desperate to demonstrate that Britain has no quarrel with Islam or the Arab world as such.

But this spectacularly misses the point. The West has indeed no quarrel with Islam, one of the world's great religions and civilisations.

It is rather that certain Islamist groups and their state backers have declared war in the name of Islam against the West in general and the Jews in particular - and not just those in Israel. Hatred President Assad himself makes no distinction between hatred of Israel and hatred of the Jews. In a disgusting remark made when he visited the Pope last year, he said: 'The Israelis are trying to kill all monotheistic religious principles on the basis of the same mentality that led to the betrayal and torture of Jesus, and the same mentality through which they tried to kill the Prophet Mohammad.' His defence minister, Mustafa Tlass, is the author of *The Matzah Of Zion*, a grotesque anti-semitic libel which claims that Jews drink the blood of children. This obscene publication, now in its eighth reprint, is

He backs suicide bombers, sponsors terrorism, tramples on human rights and is said to be arming Iraq . So why the red carpet for Syria 's President?

doing a roaring trade in the Arab world. Earlier this year, President Assad extended Mr Tlass's term for another two years in appreciation of his services.

Mr Blair 's refusal to acknowledge all this in public is more than shameful. It serves to perpetuate terrorism. His failure to take a principled, public stand against the sponsors of terror and the anti-semitism that fuels it is taken as a sign of weakness, to be exploited by terrorism's many godfathers.

Such grovelling appeasement also perpetuates ignorance and confusion among the British people, with the resulting lack of support for action against a terror network whose nature and reach are simply not understood.

It has led too many to believe that Israel is the cause of world terror, rather than recognise that Israel is the principal target of a genocidal onslaught against the Jews and a wider war against the West.

Realpolitik is the art of the possible. Naivety and hubris merely make leaders look ridiculous or compromised and leave their countries dangerously exposed.

Graphic

SYRIA'S PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD, IN BRITAIN FOR A STATE VISIT

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

Beauties and the peace

Hindustan Times

February 26, 2005 Saturday 12:20 PM EST

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Length: 291 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, Feb. 26 -- By the time you read this, the Mrs World 2005 pageant will've ended; the world's 'Most Beautiful Married Woman' will've been crowned. There'll be one Mrs World, but several winners; among them two women who'll take home the best prize of all: friendship.

Given their nationalities, it'll be an unusual - and rare - bond.

Israel and Lebanon have never had too much affection for each other. They're not exactly enemies, but Tel Aviv continues to be troubled by the Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon. It's a concern Mrs Israel Sima Bakhar shares but won't be overwhelmed by.

"I'm happy to be on the same stage as Mrs Lebanon. I have always wanted to be friends with Lebanon so that all the suffering can end," says the architect with a two-and-a-half-year-old kid.

Mrs Lebanon Cynthia Bounehme, trained in law and eastern philosophy, and mother of a five-year-old daughter, agrees: "Why should we keep alive political differences? Why can't we all live peacefully?"

Bounehme's theory, backed by Bakhar, is this: "Men have egos that reflect on their decisions, especially the political ones. If women were given a chance, the decisions would be different. Women want peace and harmony more than men."

Part-time model Bounehme gets her inspiration from God. "I've read the Bhagavad Gita and Buddhist texts. The world needs tolerance, peace and love, not territorial wars," she says.

The contestants-turned-friends look to extending their relationship beyond Amby Valley, Sahara Lake City, where they met. "Our friendship must continue for the sake of our children. They must know the world as a peaceful place....," they say, almost in chorus. Amen.

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Beauties and the peace

End of Document

'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 17, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: CURRENTS; Pg. C01

Length: 799 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

Here is one of the most fascinating debates going on among Middle Eastern intellectuals: Should Islamist parties be included in the democratic process?

Oddly, this debate has been provoked by the Iraq war, whose alleged aim was to undercut radical Islamists. Now that President Bush's Mideast focus has shifted to democracy promotion, he confronts an irony: The strongest political forces in many Arab states are religious.

Should they be let into the political game?

Thirteen years ago, when violent Algerian Islamists almost took power by the ballot, many Mideast moderates and U.S. officials recoiled at the notion. "One man, one vote, one time" was the slogan of Algerian radicals who wanted to use elections to achieve an Islamic state. Washington backed the Algerian military's cancellation of the election.

Today, that thinking seems to be shifting. According to Beirut Daily Star editor Rami Khouri, participants at a recent U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar, did not debate whether Islamist groups should participate in elections, "but how they can do so in a manner that is acceptable to all concerned."

More intriguing, the Bush administration also is revising its thinking on the political role of Islamists. It labels **Hezbollah** in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories as terrorist organizations. Yet both deliver social services to their publics and are likely to do well in coming elections.

President Bush suggested that if **Hezbollah** laid down its arms, it could be accepted as a political organization.

"Maybe some will run for office and say, 'Vote for me, I look forward to blowing up America,' " Bush said. "But I don't think so. I think people who generally run for office say, 'Vote for me, I'm looking forward to fixing your potholes.' "

Let's call this the pothole theory of Mideastern politics - get the Islamists into the game and they will learn to play by democratic rules, lay down arms, and focus on pleasing their voters. Is it safe to apply the pothole theory to the region as a rule of thumb?

'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

One compelling test is going on right now in Iraq.

U.S. officials were surprised to find that the strongest social and political forces in Iraq were religious. In January elections, a list endorsed by the leading Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was the winner. The list included the two major Shiite Muslim political parties, al-Da'awa and SCIRI (Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq). Both had at one time called for a state governed by religious law.

The man who is set to become Iraq's prime minister, Ibrahim Jaafari, the leader of al-Da'awa, insisted in a January interview that his list had no desire to create an Islamic government like that in Iran. "Not all Iraqis are Shia and not all Shia are Islamists and not all Islamists believe in velayet e faqih," or rule of the supreme cleric, he said. "Our society doesn't want this."

But - beyond mere words - there are concrete factors in Iraq that help ensure that religious parties will play by democratic rules:

Iraq's religious parties are not jihadi parties that pursue armed struggle against impure Muslim regimes or the West. They want to play a role in Iraq's national system, not to reconstruct an Islamic empire.

SCIRI and al-Da'awa have signed on to a set of democratic precepts agreed to by all political parties. U.S. and Iraqi lawyers drew up the transitional administrative law that will govern Iraq until Iraqis themselves hammer out a new constitution. Religious parties aren't strong enough to dictate all of the constitution's terms.

Should some religious politicians still dream of theocracy, Iraq has enforcers to keep them in line until democratic norms take hold. In the background, U.S. influence is still potent - although Americans can't control the process or stay forever. In the foreground is Ayatollah Sistani, a visionary who understands the need for consensus among all Iraqis.

"You will see the moderating influence of Sistani on the constitution," says Zuhair Humadi, secretary general of the Iraqi cabinet.

Iraq has other political parties and organizations that can offset religious parties - notably the secular Kurdish parties. If religious groups push too hard to roll back women's rights, these parties will push back.

Some of these factors are unique to Iraq and can't be copied elsewhere. None guarantee that Iraq won't experience secular-religious tensions. But they offset the danger that religious parties will use democracy to install a theocracy.

The lesson from Iraq is that religious parties must be bound up within a political structure that keeps them democratic. Otherwise, the pothole theory could lead to a wreck.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com. Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 12, 2005

Muslims presenting suggested reading

The Philadelphia Inquirer

September 10, 2002 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A04; news

Length: 330 words

Byline: Ben Finley Knight Ridder News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Muslim groups are pressing new educational materials onto U.S. schools and libraries, hoping to enhance the impression Americans have of Muslim faith and culture.

"The serious lack of information about Islam in America is causing our nation to be divided and makes our nation vulnerable to misinformation," said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, based in Washington.

A recent Knight Ridder poll found that a quarter of Americans admit having unfavorable feelings toward Muslim Americans. Majorities want to limit the immigration of foreign Muslims into the United States. Nearly 2,000 U.S. Muslims have reported acts of discrimination to the council since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The council, which promotes political activism among Muslim Americans, announced yesterday that it had compiled a collection of books, videotapes and DVDs on Islam that it hopes to place in 16,000 libraries nationwide. The group seeks private sponsors to pay the \$150 cost of each collection and help place the materials in libraries.

The council is funded by individuals, mostly in the United States and Canada. It has condemned Israel's use of U.S.-supplied weapons against Palestinians, but it has not, its opponents point out, condemned Islamic groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which have followers who have practiced terrorism. The council also has condemned the Sept. 11 attacks.

Demand is surging for information on Islam; Middle Eastern history and politics; terrorism; and the country of Afghanistan, said Larra Clark, press officer for the American Library Association in Chicago.

Ninety-five percent of U.S. libraries have sought new materials on these subjects since last Sept. 11, a recent study by Libraries for the Future, a national advocacy organization, said.

Clark praised the council's collection, which includes a translation of the Koran, books for children, two books on women in Islam, and documentaries by ABC News and PBS on Islam.

Muslims presenting suggested reading

Load-Date: September 10, 2002

End of Document

Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

Irish News

January 10, 2005

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 767 words

Body

PALESTINIANS hoped yesterday's presidential election, their first in nine years, would revitalise the Middle East peace process in the wake of longtime leader Yasser Arafat's death on November 11.

Mahmoud Abbas, after initial results had topped the poll.

Khalil Shekaki, the Palestinian policy centre's director said that Mr Abbas will have the legitimacy to negotiate with the Israelis, and the Palestinian people will accept what he will agree on.

Voting went relatively smoothly for the estimated 1.8 million Palestinians eligible to cast ballots.

However, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which has been funding Palestinian militants to disrupt a possible Israeli-Palestinian truce, carried out an attack on the border with Israel on Sunday. A French UN observer, an Israeli army officer and a Hezbollah fighter were killed in the incident.

In the West Bank, five gunmen burst into an election office, firing into the air and complaining that the names of their relatives had been left off registration lists. In Jerusalem, there was some confusion over voter lists that was eventually resolved, with the help of international observers.

Among the thousands of international observers monitoring the fairness of the election was Ulster Unionist Lord Kilclooney. He was leading a 15-strong delegation of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in Ramallah and Jerusalem.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said the elections can be a model for the Arab world, noting that seven candidates competed.

"This is a message to President Bush, to the rest of the world, that the problem we have here is not the kind of system we have, it's not reform, it's the Israeli occupation, " Mr Erekat said.

Mr Bush has said a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks must be accompanied by sweeping Palestinian government reform. US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on CNN, praised the vote as a moment of opportunity for both sides.

Visiting US Senator John Kerry, who challenged Mr Bush in the 2004 US election, met with candidates in the West Bank. "We're here because we have very, very high hopes for an election that can help move the peace process forward, " he said.

Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

The Palestinian election came a day before Israel's parliament was to approve a new, more moderate coalition, seen as a boost for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in the summer.

In the new alliance, Mr Sharon will govern side-by-side with elder statesman Shimon Peres, leader of the moderate Labour Party, and an architect of interim peace deals with the Palestinians.

Hardliners had quit the coalition last year, in protest against the planned withdrawal.

Mr Sharon plans to meet with 69-yearold Mr Abbas after the election, an adviser close to Mr Sharon said.

Israel is offering to release Palestinian prisoners if Mr Abbas can halt rocket attacks on Israeli communities, one Israeli official said.

Israel holds an estimated 7,000 Palestinian prisoners. It released 159 prisoners last month, but Palestinians dismissed the gesture as insufficient.

Polls opened at 7am across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

Voters were slow to arrive, and by noon only about 30 per cent had cast ballots.

Later in the day, election officials simplified procedures, allowing voters to cast ballots in any of more than 1,000 locations, rather than where they were registered.

This enabled thousands of members of the Palestinian security services to cast ballots where they serve, rather than having to travel to their hometowns.

Mr Abbas, accompanied by his family, voted at Yasser Arafat's former headquarters in Ramallah.

"The election is going well and that indicates that the Palestinian people are heading toward democracy, " he said.

Mr Abbas has said his main goal is the same as Mr Arafat's, an end to Israeli occupation and a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with east Jerusalem as its capital.

He faces a difficult balancing act. He is likely to encounter resistance from militants intent on continuing attacks on Israel. On the other hand, he is under heavy pressure from Israel to crack down on the militants.

"After the elections, we want to see a strategic decision to fight the terror and incitement, " Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Israel Radio.

Mr Abbas has so far resisted calls for a crackdown. Instead, he hopes to persuade militants to halt their attacks on Israel.

By prior agreement with Israel, only about 5,000 of 120,000 eligible voters in Jerusalem were permitted to vote in post offices in the city.

Graphic

EXERCISING THEIR FRANCHISE: Palestinian women cast their vote in the presidential election yesterday. Initial results put Mahmoud Abbas at the top of the poll with 66 per cent

Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

End of Document

**Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks;
Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'**

The International Herald Tribune

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 808 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Facing strong pressure from Israel, the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, has instructed Palestinian security forces to try to prevent attacks against Israel and to investigate a deadly assault last week in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said Monday.

Abbas's order came only two days after he was sworn in as president of the Palestinian Authority and one day after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel announced that the Israeli military had free rein to pursue armed factions in Gaza.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Sharon, described Abbas's move "as a small but positive sign."

Israel did not lift its threat of a possible large-scale incursion into Gaza, but any such offensive appeared to be on hold, at least for now, according to Israeli media reports.

The New York Times

"What we really expect him to do is put his security forces in the parts of the Gaza Strip where the rockets are being fired," Shoval said of Abbas.

The Palestinian rockets, with a range of barely eight kilometers, or five miles, are fired regularly from the northern Gaza Strip at the Israeli town of Sederot, which is just outside Gaza's perimeter fence.

Palestinians shot two rockets Monday at Sederot, and mortars were fired at Jewish settlements in southern Gaza, the military said. The attacks caused no injuries or damage.

Elsewhere in Gaza, Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinian gunmen who approached a road in southern Gaza reserved for Jewish settlers, the military said. Islamic Jihad, a faction behind many attacks against Israel, said the two men were from its group.

Abbas has been speaking out against Palestinian bombing and shooting attacks. But until the decision Monday, announced at a cabinet meeting, he had not indicated that he would call on security forces to confront the armed Palestinian factions.

Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks; Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'

"There are intensified instructions to the Palestinian security forces to assume their responsibilities," Azzam al-Ahmed, the Palestinian communications minister, told reporters after the cabinet session in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "The attacks by the Palestinian side must come to an end, but Israeli military operations must also end."

In addition, Abbas ordered the security forces to investigate an assault on a crossing point between Israel and Gaza that killed six Israeli civilians Thursday.

Following that attack, Sharon suspended Israeli contact with Abbas and the Palestinian leadership.

A group of liberal Israeli politicians, including several current and former members of Parliament, met Abbas in Ramallah and said afterward they believed he was sincere about trying to stop Palestinian attacks.

"Mr. Abbas is totally committed to ending the violence by various means, that is clear to us," said Yossi Beilin, leader of the leftist Yahad Party.

Abbas did not comment publicly on his decision, and fellow cabinet members did not provide details on how security forces might act to halt the daily Palestinian attacks, most of which are currently launched in Gaza. Under the late Yasser Arafat, Palestinian security forces never made a sustained effort to prevent attacks during the past four years.

Israel accuses Palestinian security forces of frequently assisting the armed factions, or of participating directly in attacks against Israeli targets.

A senior Palestinian security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the security services had not received any new orders from Abbas and were waiting for him to visit Gaza later this week to discuss matters.

Abbas, commonly known as Abu Mazen, is also expected to meet the armed factions in Gaza. They have been engaged in dialogue with him, though they reject his call to halt attacks.

"The resistance did not begin with a decision by Abu Mazen, and it won't end with a decision by him," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for Hamas. He said "there is no way such a decision will be implemented in the field because the resistance is a project for all the Palestinian people."

Hamas and other factions say they would consider laying down their weapons only if Israel also agrees to halt raids on Palestinian areas.

Mokhaimer Abusada, a political science professor at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City, said he believed that Hamas would be deeply reluctant to agree to a truce when it knows that Israel intends to withdraw its soldiers and settlers from Gaza this summer.

Meanwhile, in the tense region where the borders of Israel, Lebanon and Syria converge, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah detonated a bomb close to an Israeli Army bulldozer but it caused no injuries, the Israeli military said.

Israel responded with air strikes in southern Lebanon that targeted two Hezbollah bases, the military added. In Lebanon, security officials said that two women were injured in the strikes, several miles north of the border, The Associated Press reported from Beirut.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005

Killings won't lead to peace

Western Daily Press

June 26, 2002

WP LATE CITY

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Section: Features :General :Letters, Pg.12

Length: 300 words

Byline: Mr AT Clare; Balham; London

Body

SIR - It would be optimistic to think, as DP Bonner seems to think, that the hideous and brutal suicide bombing of innocent men, women and children in Israel is a result of economic despair or trauma due to Israeli occupation.

I have great sympathy with the Palestinian people.

All right-thinking people will surely agree that the sooner a two-state solution is established the better for all moderates in the land. However, the actions of groups such as Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Hezbollah and Al-Aqsa Brigade are not an attempt to further this process.

They are the results and actions of fanatical Islamic/ religious extremists - groups who simply want to kill Jews and extinguish the state of Israel.

As we sip coffee in our street cafes and nonchalantly take a bus ride to work, spare a thought for the millions of Israelis who consistently hear the hate-filled diatribes of these terrorist groups.

Arafat was offered more than ever before under the deal brokered by President Clinton and the then prime minister of Israel, Ehud Barak - a deal he rejected out of hand. This paved the way for the more hardline policies of Ariel Sharon.

However, to call Sharon a 'terrorist' and to compare him to the suicide bombers is despicable. DP Bonner's comments that 'hundreds of civilians' were 'killed in Jenin' are similarly false.

Israeli soldiers went house to house in an effort to avoid civilian casualties unlike, say, American and European actions in Afghanistan, where blanket bombing from thousands of feet in the air truly did lead to hundreds/thousands of civilian deaths.

Civilians did die in Jenin - I think the official number is 18. Each death is a tragedy, but each death results from the fact that the real terrorists of this situation hold no qualms about hiding amongst the civilian population.

Load-Date: June 26, 2002

Killings won't lead to peace

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WORLD MOVES TO CONDEMN ISRAEL

Birmingham Post

April 16, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

Section: NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 350 words

Body

Israeli forces yesterday captured Marwan Barghouti, a close aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and a leader of the uprising, as its incursions into the West bank came in for further international condemnation.

Barghouti, aged 41, was arrested at the house of a member of Arafat's Fatah group in Ramallah, said Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian West Bank security chief. Barghouti, sometimes mentioned as a possible Arafat successor, is on Israel's wanted list for allegedly masterminding terror attacks.

He is a top militant leader in Arafat's Fatah movement and is an outspoken advocate of continued attacks on Israelis.

Barghouti, who learned fluent Hebrew in Israeli jails, is a leading figure - some say the leader - in the Al Aqsa Brigades. In Geneva the UN Human Rights Commission voted by 40 votes to five, with seven abstentions, to pass an Islamic-sponsored resolution expressing 'grave concern' at the deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian territories.

But the vote split the EU - which normally acts as a bloc - with Germany and Britain voting against the resolution.

The resolution criticised 'gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law' such as extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detentions, torture of detainees, besieging of Palestinian towns and villages and the recent incursions into Palestinian towns and camps.

It 'strongly condemns the war launched by the Israeli army against Palestinian towns and camps, which has resulted so far in the death of hundreds of Palestinian civilians, including women and children.'

It also expresses concern at Israel's refusal to abide by UN Security Council resolutions and its restrictions on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell pressed ahead yesterday with his peace initiative as he visited President Emile Lahoud of Lebanon.

'There is a very real danger of the situation along the border widening the conflict throughout the region,' Powell said after the meeting.

He flew to Damascus from Beirut to ask the Lebanese and Syrian governments to rein in Hezbollah guerrillas.

WORLD MOVES TO CONDEMN ISRAEL

Load-Date: April 16, 2002

End of Document

HEROISM?

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)
February 26, 2002 Tuesday City Edition

Copyright 2002 Richmond Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A-8; WAR ON TERRORISM

Length: 318 words

Body

On February 6 a Palestinian terrorist killed three Israelis and wounded several more. The dead included a mother and her 11-year-old daughter.

The radio station known as the "Voice of Palestine" - which broadcasts the Palestinian Authority's official line - described the deed as an "act of heroic martyrdom." Stirring songs called on others to follow his example - i.e., to kill Jews.

Wafa Idris, identified as the female suicide bomber responsible for bloodletting in central Jerusalem, also has been called, in a PA paper, a heroine and a martyr. There is considerable doubt whether she intended to carry out the attack herself or planned to deliver the device to a male who was supposed to be the bomber. A premature explosion may have taken her life - as well as the life of an innocent Israeli. Palestinian propaganda hails her as something of a feminist trailblazer, nonetheless.

The bombs employed by terrorists reportedly have included nails and shrapnel coated with rat poison. The toxins make it more difficult for doctors to stop wounds from bleeding. The purpose is to maximize suffering and pain.

Not long ago Yasser Arafat wrote a column for the op/ed page of The New York Times in which he professed his love of peace and his opposition to violence. He has yet to explain why a ship under the command of one of his minions was filled with tons of Iranian weapons. The Israelis intercepted the vessel before it delivered its deadly cargo. And despite Arafat's weepy protestations, broadcasts and publications under his umbrella laud terrorists as heroic martyrs.

Heroes do not murder mothers and daughters; they do not blow up bombs in civilian neighborhoods. True heroes do not contribute to evil but resist it. They are not found in Arafat's ambit or among the various groups - Hezbollah, Hamas - that revel in dark work but among the security forces whose courage prevents even greater atrocities.

Load-Date: February 27, 2002

Suspicion defines Syria's international relationships

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 26, 2005 Saturday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 5A; Newspaper

Length: 1358 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Series: TIMES 2; SORTING IT OUT: SYRIA

Body

Why is Syria so much in the news these days?

Syria is suspected of involvement in the Feb. 14 assassination of Rafik Hariri, the popular former prime minister of neighboring Lebanon. Hariri had increasingly opposed Syria's military occupation of Lebanon and its control of Lebanese politics. The Bush administration also accuses Syria of supporting the insurgency in neighboring Iraq.

Did Syria have anything to do with Hariri's killing?

There is no firm evidence. Some analysts think Syrian intelligence agents might have played a role in killing the man perceived as a growing threat to Syria's control of Lebanon. On the other hand, as columnist Pat Buchanan put it, Syrian President Bashar Assad "would have to be the stupidest man on the planet" to order such a high-profile murder when Syria is under so much scrutiny from the Bush administration, Israel and others.

How did Syria get involved in Lebanon in the first place?

The countries have been close since they were ruled by France from 1920 to 1946. Beirut, the Lebanese capital, has been called "the Paris of the Mideast," and many wealthy Syrians do their banking and shopping there. From 1975 to 1990, Lebanon was racked by a civil war in which Syria supported various factions. The war ended with an agreement for Syria to temporarily station troops in Lebanon to maintain peace, but the soldiers never left. As a Lebanese critic put it, "Syria has been allowed to get away with pretty much whatever it likes in Lebanon."

Will Syria ever leave Lebanon?

Bowing to international pressure, Syria announced Thursday it would move some of its 15,000 troops closer to its own border but gave no timetable. Syrian officials accuse the United States of a double standard in demanding Syria withdraw from Lebanon while Israel continues to occupy Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967.

Why are Syria and Israel such enemies?

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

Syria is among the Arab nations that fought wars against Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973. Along with Iran, Syria supports Hezbollah, the militant group that has killed dozens of Israelis. Syria also shelters leaders of other anti-Israel groups, including Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a former University of South Florida instructor who heads the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and lives in Damascus.

Is there any chance of peace between Syria and Israel?

Syria's late ruler, Hafez Assad, insisted the Syrian-Israeli conflict could not be resolved unless it was part of a comprehensive peace agreement that also addressed Palestinian issues. His son, Bashar, has offered to resume talks with no strings attached, but so far has been rebuffed by Israel, which says it doubts his sincerity.

The late President Assad was a ruthless leader who killed as many as 25,000 of his own people to quash a threat from Islamic fundamentalists. Is his son like him?

Many analysts had high hopes for Bashar Assad, 39, who trained as an eye doctor in London and is known as a computer geek. After his father died in 2000, he tried to institute economic and political reforms but quickly ran into opposition from hard-liners and entrenched interests. Some experts think Assad still wants to modernize and liberalize his country, which lacks Iraq's oil wealth, but progress has been slow. However, Syria no longer has the oppressive police state atmosphere it did when Assad's father was in power.

Is Syria an enemy of the United States?

No, insist Syrian officials, who point to cooperation after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In 2002, Syria reportedly tipped off the CIA to a planned attack against U.S. personnel in an undisclosed Persian Gulf country. Syria also has provided intelligence on other Islamic groups and individuals linked to al-Qaida. In an interview with the New York Times editorial board last fall, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell said Syrian officials "gave me some information with respect to financial activities (of insurgents in Iraq) and how we can cooperate more fully on that."

Why, then, is the Bush administration taking such a tough line on Syria?

The administration says Syria has sheltered top officials of Saddam Hussein's regime and supported the insurgency in other ways. In a tape aired this week on an Iraqi TV network, a man claiming to be a Syrian intelligence officer said he helped train insurgents to behead and build car bombs to attack U.S. and Iraqi troops. Neither the man's identity nor the tape's authenticity has been verified.

What steps can the administration take against Syria?

Short of military action, not many. The United States already has recalled its ambassador to Damascus and imposed tough sanctions, including a ban on most U.S. exports to Syria other than food and medicine. President Bush says he will wait to see whether Syria withdraws from Lebanon before asking the United Nations to impose international sanctions.

Would the United States attack Syria?

Most experts doubt the United States could afford to get involved in another war when it still has so many troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, there could be limited strikes. Israel has hit militant targets in Damascus and U.S. troops reportedly have entered Syria from Iraq in pursuit of insurgents.

How big a threat does Syria pose to the United States itself?

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

The State Department lists Syria as a "state sponsor of terrorism," primarily for its support of Hezbollah. The organization has run training camps in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, where terrorists from around the world reportedly are taught to forge identification, make bombs and plot assassinations. Hezbollah has not been suspected of any overt anti-American acts in years, but it killed enough Americans in Lebanon during the civil war to make it second only to al-Qaida in causing U.S. deaths. Syria itself is a relatively poor, small country (its population is just 18-million), and its military is no match for either Israel or the United States.

- SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN, Times senior correspondent

SYRIA AT A GLANCE

HISTORY

Damascus, settled about 2500 B.C., is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Archaeologists have discovered extensive writings and evidence of a brilliant culture rivaling those of Mesopotamia and Egypt in and around the ancient city of Ebla. Over the ages, Syria has seen invasions and occupations by almost all the great powers of the region. In 1517, Syria fell under the rule of the Ottoman Turks. After the breakup of their empire after World War I, Syria was ruled by the French until independence in 1946. After a long period of instability, the pan-Arab Baath (Renaissance) Party took control in 1963. (The Baath movement also came to power in Iraq.) The government has been characterized by authoritarian rule, which has eased somewhat since 2000 under President Bashar Assad.

PEOPLE

POPULATION: 18.2-million.

ETHNIC GROUPS: Arabs (90 percent), Kurds (9 percent), Armenians, Circassians, Turkmen.

RELIGIONS: Sunni Muslim (74 percent), Alawite Muslim (12 percent), Christians (10 percent), Druze (3 percent), and small numbers of other Muslim sects, Jews and Yazidis.

MAJOR LANGUAGES: Arabic (official), English and French (widely understood), Kurdish.

LITERACY: 89.7 percent male, 64 percent female.

LIFE EXPECTANCY: 68 years male, 71 years female.

GEOGRAPHY

AREA: 71,504 square miles (including Israeli-occupied Golan Heights); slightly larger than North Dakota.

MAJOR CITIES: capital, Damascus (5-million); Aleppo (4.5-million).

ECONOMY

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE (2003 ESTIMATE): 20 percent.

GDP PER CAPITA (2003 ESTIMATE): \$1,165.

INDUSTRIES: petroleum, textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, phosphate mining.

MAJOR EXPORTS: crude oil, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, textiles, cotton.

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

GOVERNMENT

TYPE: republic (under military regime).

HEAD OF STATE: President Bashar Assad, since July 2000.

Military: 30-month service for males over 18. Army: roughly 215,000 active duty (2002). Air force: roughly 40,000 active; one of the largest in the Middle East. Small navy.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, State Department Background Notes, Energy Information Administration, GlobalSecurity.org.

Graphic

PHOTO, ASSOCIATED PRESS; MAP; PHOTO; A family picnics on Kassioun mountain, high above the Syrian capital of Damascus.; Map of Syria locates major cities; Bashar Assad

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CROSSROADS ON ROUTE MAP TO PEACE -1

Scotland on Sunday
April 20, 2003, Sunday

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Section: Pg. 14

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Byline: Ian Mather

Body

Lebanon

ONCE known as the Switzerland of the Middle East, Lebanon was beginning to recover its former privileged status after the 15-year civil war which ended in 1990. But the war in Iraq has once again thrown its future into doubt.

Last summer, the good times seemed to be returning as thousands of wealthy Gulf Arabs flocked to the country's resorts to avoid Western destinations in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent anti-Arab hostility they engendered. Strained relations between the US and Arab governments were also leading Arab investors to transfer their funds to Lebanon.

Now tourism in Lebanon has been severely hit by the knock-on effect of the war in Iraq, forcing a whole wave of lay-offs in the hotel industry. Similar problems are facing the business sector, which had invested millions of dollars in developing trade with Iraq. But these are not the greatest of Lebanon's many worries.

Under an inter-communal power-sharing arrangement reached following the end of the civil war, the post of prime minister is always held by a Sunni Muslim and the presidency by a Maronite Christian. But the reality is that the country is a client state of Syria. Last week Lebanese officials obediently echoed Syria's rejection of US accusations that Damascus had aided Saddam Hussein's regime, was harbouring wanted Iraqi leaders and had weapons of mass destruction. The Lebanese government voiced its solidarity with Syria, and accused Washington of "serving the interests of Israel." Syria has an estimated 20,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, and has the final say in the appointment of the president, prime minister and most MPs. The current 30 -member government, formed in October 2000, was approved by Syria.

Last Wednesday Lebanon's prime minister, Rafiq Hariri, resigned over differences with President Emile Lahoud. But, according to one Lebanese parliamentary source, Damascus wants an even more "reliable" Lebanese government to reduce its own diplomatic isolation. Lebanese officials say that Hariri will resume office with a number of different ministers following consultations by President Lahoud. But, according to the same Lebanese source, the negotiations have already taken place and the Lebanese deputies have been told of the result directly by Damascus.

Lebanon is thus at risk of being exposed to the full blast of US hostility. In its worldwide hunt for international terrorists the US has in its sights the fundamentalist Shi'ite **Hezbollah** guerrillas, who attack Israel from their bases in southern Lebanon. Since **Hezbollah** is sponsored by Syria, Lebanon is in no position to comply with Washington's demands to take action against it.

CROSSROADS ON ROUTE MAP TO PEACE -1

Meanwhile, the Lebanese government is also in the uncomfortable situation of being squeezed by both Syria and Israel. Lebanon already has bitter past experience of Israel's direct intervention in its affairs. In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon and occupied a buffer zone in the south where Hezbollah's armed camps were based. The Israelis also occupied Beirut in their bid to rid themselves of the threat from the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). It was here that one of the worst atrocities of modern times took place when Israeli troops, under the control of Ariel Sharon, then defence minister and now prime minister, looked the other way as Lebanese Christian militia went into two Palestinian camps at Sabra and Shatila and massacred 1,500 refugees.

It is estimated that there are four times as many Lebanese living overseas as there are in Lebanon. This extensive diaspora, which is highly successful in business, combined with the traditional ties of the country's Christian community with Europe, has resulted in Lebanon having a greater understanding of the West than neighbouring Arab countries. Despite these advantages Lebanon faces a difficult future.

Egypt

EGYPT is a big player in the Middle East poker game, and a key Washington ally.

After three wars with Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973, it moved from the belligerence camp to the peace camp and made peace with its adversary in the historic Camp David agreement hosted by President Jimmy Carter in 1979.

But President Anwar Sadat paid the ultimate price, and was assassinated in 1981 by Islamic extremists who were furious at the pact and angry at his moves to clamp down on their activities. The closer links to America continued under his successor, President Hosni Mubarak, however, and Egypt has received billions of dollars in US aid.

But Mubarak's government is increasingly trapped between two preoccupations. The first is the struggle to contain home-grown Islamic fundamentalism, and Egypt has ruthlessly suppressed the most violent groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, which have been responsible for the assassination of government ministers, foreign tourists and members of the country's Coptic Christian minority. At the same time the authorities have tried to appease religious conservatives by letting them ban the books they disapprove of and harass secular intellectuals.

The other Egyptian preoccupation is the fear that the US aims to reshape the region to its liking following the fall of Iraq and growing threats against Syria.

The worries over Washington's intentions began to grow last December, when Secretary of State Colin Powell unveiled the so-called US-Middle East Partnership Initiative. It is designed to provide funding and a framework for the US to work with governments and people in the Arab world to expand economic, education and political opportunity.

In addition, Egypt is one Middle East country that has been targeted by a new state department campaign which involves giving funds to private groups to conduct projects that are aimed at enhancing human rights and democracy.

Indeed, in the 19th century Egypt was a democratic trendsetter. It elected a parliament in 1864, before either Italy and Germany. But its last parliamentary vote, in 2000, was marred by charges that thugs had prevented supporters of opposition candidates from casting their votes.

Activists fear that a new law, which was adopted in June 2002, allows the Egyptian authorities to dissolve any non-governmental organisation which it dislikes without resorting to the courts.

As to freedom of speech, the Egyptian press is regarded as one of the most influential in the Arab world, but it is subject to many restrictions and self-censorship.

Yemen

FORTY years ago Yemen was a mediaeval theocracy. Today it is edging towards democracy.

CROSSROADS ON ROUTE MAP TO PEACE -1

But through global television its heart belongs to its favourite son, Prince Naseem, the Sheffield-born World Featherweight boxing champion whose family hails from Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen was established in 1990 by a merger of the traditionalist North Yemen and the Marxist-dominated South Yemen, which had become independent from Britain in 1967.

Desperately poor and unable to control its desert border with Saudi Arabia, Yemen became a notorious haven for Islamic fundamentalist terrorists. In October 2001 al-Qaeda terrorists rammed an explosives-laden boat into the US destroyer Cole, killing 17 sailors in the port of Aden - the first attack against a prominent American target since the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

After September 11 Yemen was in danger of finding itself on President George W Bush's hit list.

However, President Ali Abdullah Saleh performed a swift diplomatic U-turn to announce that he was "a friend of the West" since then Yemen has tried to rid itself of its extremist image.

Yemen arrested Islamic fundamentalists, closed down extremist religious schools, and allowed the Americans free rein in its territory. Last November the CIA assassinated six al-Qaeda members with a laser-guided Hellfire missile fired from a remote-controlled Predator drone above the Yemeni desert.

Officially, at least, the country has embraced multi-party democracy, allows women the vote and televises parliamentary debates. Since 1990 the country has had two parliamentary elections and one presidential election. But the opposition described the latter as a sham since it was barred from fielding a candidate. The press is subject to regulation. Critics say that Salah's commitment to democracy is hollow.

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NEWSDESK

The Forward

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Body

Quebec Nixes Speaker

A civil servant in the Quebec government has been blocked from participating in a lecture series on Montreal Jewry, after his supervisors discovered that it includes a discussion of fascism and antisemitism in Quebec during the 1930s, according to one organizer of the program.

The series on Montreal Jewry, to be held in New York in March, is being offered by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and features a symposium and movie screenings.

The Quebec government claimed it pulled out the scheduled speaker, Yiddish scholar Pierre Anctil, because of scheduling conflicts and the government's policy of preferring academics, instead of civil servants, to appear at such events. Anctil would have attended as a Yiddish scholar, not in his official capacity with the Quebec government. "We're sorry about this, but he wasn't entitled to make a commitment before asking us," said Yven Turcotte, who helps supervise Anctil and serves as an assistant deputy minister in the Quebec minorities and immigration department.

Anctil would not comment on the matter. But Alan Nadler, a professor of Jewish Studies at Drew University who is helping organize the series for YIVO, said he does not believe the Quebec government's story.

"One afternoon is not worth it to make him renege on his commitments," said Nadler, who is a native of Montreal.

Nadler said that Quebec officials were upset by the decision to screen the documentary "Je Me Souviens," based on the work of the highly controversial Esther Delisle, an academic known for her hard-hitting look at fascism in Quebec during the World War II-era. Delisle is scheduled to speak after the screening.

Nadler claimed that the Quebec government pulled Anctil from the program soon after discovering in February that Delisle would participate in the series - even though Nadler had agreed to add another speaker to counterbalance Delisle.

Israel Raids Banks

Israeli forces clashed with stone throwers during a raid on banks in Ramallah. Medics said at least 18 Palestinians were injured in Wednesday's confrontations as troops entered the West Bank city to search its Cairo-Amman Bank and two branches of the Arab Bank. Security sources said the raid came in response to warnings that the banks were funding terrorist activity. Yasser Arafat and his Ramallah compound were untouched.

NEWSDESK

Rabbi Avoids Prosecution

A New York rabbi will not be prosecuted for allegedly diverting federal money.

Federal prosecutors said they would not prosecute Rabbi Milton Balkany, who has admitted that some \$700,000 in grant money was misdirected to pay for administrative and operating expenses at the Children's Center of Brooklyn and at Bais Yaakov, a Jewish school in Brooklyn. The funds from money administered through the Department of Housing and Urban Development were supposed to be used for direct services at the Children's Center. Balkany must make restitution to HUD and engage in "good behavior" for six months. Prosecutors originally had charged Balkany with using the money to pay for insurance premiums, electronics and restaurant bills.

Support for Israel Wanes

American public support for Israel has declined slightly over the past year.

In its annual "favorability of nations" poll, Gallup found that 59% of Americans hold a favorable view of Israel to various degrees, versus 35% unfavorable, with 6% having no opinion. One year ago, the results were 64% favorable, 29% unfavorable and 7% neutral.

Hezbollah: Wrong Body

Israel may have sent **Hezbollah** the wrong body. Kul Al-Arab reported that a Lebanese family expecting the body of Muhamed Biro, a drug dealer who died in an Israeli prison when he was 70, instead received the body of what appeared to be an Orthodox Jew. Now, the paper reported, **Hezbollah** wants an additional 30 bodies as compensation for the mistake. The body was transferred to Lebanon as part of an exchange of 400 Arab prisoners for one live Israeli citizen and three dead Israeli soldiers. The Israeli army confirmed to Israeli news outlets on February 20 that the case was under review, but said it had not heard of any new demands from the Lebanese terrorist group.

Orthodox Injure **Women**

A woman was lightly injured in Jerusalem this week when ultra-Orthodox Jews threw rocks at the private bus in which she was traveling. The attackers were protesting the desecration of the Sabbath. The woman was hospitalized after being hit by glass fragments .

Elsewhere in the capital, ultra-Orthodox Jews hurled rocks at vehicles traveling on Bar Ilan Street, smashing the windshields of two cars, but no injuries were reported in those incidents.

There have been no violent attacks on cars driving on Saturday in Jerusalem for almost one year. Sources in the Jerusalem municipality said ultra-Orthodox groups wishing to close Bar Ilan Street to traffic on a regular basis on the Sabbath instigated the rock-throwing.

Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski, the city's first ultra-Orthodox mayor, condemned the attacks.

Court Takes Up Art Case

A case involving Nazi-looted art is slated to be heard this week at the U.S. Supreme Court.

On Wednesday, justices will hear arguments in the case of Maria Altmann, who wants the court to help her recover six paintings seized from her family by the Nazis and now held by Austria's National Gallery.

The works are valued at \$110 million. The government-owned gallery says it acquired the works in 1948 as a gift from Altmann's brother and that U.S. law does not permit Altmann to sue a sovereign nation for historic deeds.

Theology Student Loses

NEWSDESK

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that rejecting a theology student from a state-sponsored scholarship was constitutional. In a 7-2 decision released Wednesday, the high court said that in the case of *Locke v. Davey*, Washington state's program "does not require students to choose between their religious beliefs and receiving a government benefit." Writing for the majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said that "the state has merely chosen not to fund a distinct category of instruction." The case focused on a theology student who was denied the Promise Scholarship because the state said the aid would violate church-state separation. Jews were divided on the issue, which is expected to have implications for the use of school vouchers.

Bill To Tackle 'Gold Train'

The New York City Council will hold a legislative hearing next week on a resolution urging the Justice Department to resolve claims that the U.S. Army looted treasures from Holocaust survivors aboard the Hungarian "Gold Train."

The City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs will meet March 3 to discuss a resolution introduced by Councilmember David Yassky, a Brooklyn Democrat, urging "justice for the survivors," according to a press release. More than 1,000 Hungarian survivors live in New York.

In 1944, the Nazis confiscated the property of Hungary's Jewish community and loaded it onto a train for plunder. At war's end, the train was turned over to the U.S. Army. A class-action lawsuit in federal court charges that senior military personnel looted much of the property. In 1999, the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets found that the U.S. government had committed an "egregious failure" to follow its own restitution policy in handling the so-called "Gold Train."

Judge Blasts Swiss Banks

The federal judge overseeing Swiss bank settlements with Holocaust victims excoriated the banks for focusing on their public image. Judge Edward Korman of the Eastern District of New York, who is in charge of the \$1.25 billion deal to return Swiss assets to Nazi victims, accused the banks of filing "frivolous and offensive objections" in the past 18 months rather than returning the money, *The New York Sun* reported. The judge accused Credit Suisse and UBS of "spin and distortion" by denying they transferred Jewish money to German banks or lied about it. So far the banks have only distributed \$150 million of \$800 million earmarked for the initial group of claimants in the 2000 settlement.

Graphic

IMAGE

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Fighting for a nation's honour - WAR ON IRAQ

The Australian

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Body

ANALYSIS

Iraqis may not like Saddam Hussein but they believe the US poses a greater threat, writes Hala Jaber in Baghdad

US and British troops were led to expect open arms and warm embraces when they arrived to "liberate" Iraq, particularly in the south, which was supposed to be a hotbed of opposition to the regime.

But there have been bullets instead of flowers. Why?

British Prime Minister Tony Blair believes it is because the Shi'ites of southern Iraq, let down by the West when they rebelled against Saddam Hussein after the last Gulf War, do not yet trust the Anglo-American forces to protect them. Allied officers seem to believe the residents will at last dance in the streets of Basra once the local "remnants of the regime" have been destroyed.

The Sunday Times

They are deluded. Iraqis, including the Shi'ites, fight not to save Hussein but to defend their honour.

The US and Britain may believe their war symbolises liberation from Hussein, but for many Iraqis the allied forces are invaders seeking to steal their oil and desecrating their country's dignity. This is an unforgivable sin in Iraq's culture. Land and territory are as sacred as the honour of women, and occupation is as vile, shameful and abominable as rape.

Iraqis may not like their President but they believe the US invasion threatens them with aggression on a scale not previously known.

Consequently the Iraqi leader and his officials have not tried to rally support around the ideology of the ruling Baath party. Instead they have cast the war as a jihad in defence of the homeland. Hussein has worked hard to rally the nation behind a sense of patriotism. Many say he has succeeded.

That Iraqis may wish for the regime to change is not in question. That they dream of political reforms, democracy and transparency is hardly in doubt.

But in the face of foreign invasion, internal political differences are put aside. Arab tribes, Baath party members and religious sects have united under one banner, faith and culture -- that of patriotism.

Fighting for a nation's honour - WAR ON IRAQ

The Arab saying, "My brother and I against our cousin, and my cousin and I against the enemy", comes to mind -- as it did 21 years ago when I reported from Lebanon as Israel invaded under the pretext of liberating the country's south from Palestinian forces.

It did not take long for the Shi'ites of south Lebanon to begin a campaign of resistance, and Hezbollah was born. Despite its Islamic ideology, it managed to rally and unite the Lebanese, including its harshest Christian foes and critics, behind the struggle against the Israelis. As with the Iraqis now, land, territory, honour and the country's integrity were the common elements that brought them together.

It was guerilla warfare that eventually drained the Israelis. Every attempt to penalise the entire country through aerial bombardment only rallied more support for Hezbollah.

I recall the leader of Hezbollah once telling me that while they knew they were no match for Israel in any conventional military conflict, they would nevertheless be a constant irritant. "Just like the pestering mosquitoes -- we will continue to buzz and bite whenever and wherever we can until they eventually leave us alone."

Israel failed to read the Lebanese psyche and in particular that of the Shi'ites, just as Washington has failed to understand the real mentality of the Iraqi people, their history and nature.

Some put this down to the lack of reliable intelligence coming from Iraq over the years. Having mostly received information from the Iraqi opposition -- who may have wanted Hussein toppled so much they intentionally misled the Americans about the likely reaction to invasion -- the West has failed to absorb the mood of the people, or even to understand the images now coming out on television all over the Arab world.

Footage of Shi'ite Muslims dancing around the dead bodies of British soldiers in Basra was offensive to say the least, yet this was no dance of contempt for the dead or a sign that the Shi'ites of Basra had turned into fundamentalists bent on killing the "infidels".

It may be incomprehensible and shocking for many in the West, but for the Iraqis this was an expression of triumph -- triumph in the fact that despite the awe-inspiring military superiority of the Anglo-American forces, the invaders were not invincible.

Hussein has been playing on this shrewdly on Iraqi television. The names of overnight heroes - including the elderly "brave peasant" said to have downed an Apache helicopter with an old Czech rifle, and a southern woman who destroyed an armoured personnel carrier -- were announced in press conferences given daily by Iraqi ministers with updates from the battlefield.

In a speech, Hussein read a rollcall of honour, naming commanders and their locations, including the port of Umm Qasr, which has rapidly gained legendary status as a tiny town doggedly resisting the world's mightiest army.

Despite the bombing of Iraq's main television and satellite stations, the country continues to be fed hour after hour footage of dead US soldiers and prisoners of war, the clean-shaven faces of two downed US pilots and the charred remains of armoured personnel carriers and tanks -- together with old footage of Hussein and new montages of Iraqi history and the Iraq-Iran war.

News broadcasts repeatedly show images of the anti-war demonstrations around the globe, extracts from an interview with British foreign secretary Robin Cook after his resignation from the Blair cabinet and Michael Moore's Oscar ceremony attack on President George W. Bush for launching the war against Iraq.

On the television screens, Muslim clerics brandishing AK-47s have issued calls to jihad. As each air raid siren wails across Baghdad, the call of "Allahu akbar" echoes across the capital from every towering minaret.

No matter what Bush or Blair may say, no liberation pretext or sentiment of compassion has swayed the Iraqis from the belief that this is a war of colonial occupation for the benefit of Israel, to curb Iraq's potential as a regional superpower and to win control of its oil and other natural resources.

Fighting for a nation's honour - WAR ON IRAQ

Many Iraqis are ashamed of their country's invasion of Kuwait, but they are also weary of paying the price, in sanctions and poverty, for that debacle. They are convinced the war is not related to weapons of mass destruction or Hussein's alleged threat to international security.

They watched as Hussein made what they saw as concessions -- from allowing UN inspectors back into their country to the "demeaning" destruction of Iraq's Al-Samoud-2 missiles, which many saw as a legitimate weapon of self-defence -- and became convinced that despite all Baghdad's compromises, the US and Britain were set on war.

It is worth remembering that for most Iraqis, history is repeating itself. They have been taught that the Iraqis liberated their country from British occupation after World War I against heavy military odds at the cost of thousands of lives.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict also plays a major role in Iraqi distrust. Many blame Britain for the creation of the state of Israel, and the Bush administration's strong support for Ariel Sharon's Government adds to the misgivings.

There is another paradoxical motivation behind the Iraqis' continued support for the regime: the fear of civil war. Hussein may be an oppressive tyrant but he has managed to keep the country, with all its tribes, sects and differences, cemented together under one secular Government.

Years of oppression, coups, civil wars and mistrust are still fresh in people's memories, and they fear the overthrow of Hussein could lead to the disintegration of the country into civil strife and bloodletting.

But perhaps most importantly, the Iraqis want to look future generations in the eye and say: "We did go down, but we went with dignity and having put up a fight."

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**Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours
 Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns**

Ottawa Citizen

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

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Body

JERUSALEM - Israeli leaders warned Syria yesterday that it bears the blame for a double suicide bombing by Hamas terrorists because it harbours the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's attack that killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. However, Israel was looking farther afield to assign the blame.

"The fact that Hamas is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the Associated Press.

The overall leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria. Earlier this year, Israel assassinated Hamas' founder and his successor in Gaza, throwing the Islamic group into temporary disarray. But major decisions are made by Mr. Mashaal, not by Hamas leaders in Gaza.

The Israeli army chief, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said yesterday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese ***Hezbollah*** guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Mr. Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital, a day after a ***female*** suicide bomber blew up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Security officials said Israel would go after Hamas leaders in the West Bank and step up military patrols in the sparsely populated southern part of the territory. The target of Tuesday's bombings was Beersheba, south of the West Bank.

Mr. Sharon also pledged to finish the West Bank security barrier, which is aimed at keeping Palestinian suicide bombers from getting into Israel. The plan has drawn international criticism.

Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns

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Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

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Body

On the day terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, a Texas state trooper pulled over a rental van driven by a Middle Eastern man toward Houston. Opening the cargo door, the officer found a huge load of ... baby formula.

False alarm? Not really. Police later identified the driver as a member of a terrorist group and linked him to a nationwide theft ring that specialized in reselling stolen infant formula, says Sgt. Johnnie Jezierski of the Special Crimes Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Proceeds were wired to the Middle East. The driver is still under investigation.

Operation Blackbird, as Texas investigators dubbed their multistate baby-formula investigation, has since led to felony charges against more than 40 suspects, about half illegal immigrants. Authorities have seized some \$ 2.7 million in stolen assets, including \$ 1 million worth of formula.

Blackbird was just the beginning. In the nearly four years since 9/11, police have uncovered and dismantled a growing number of regional and national theft rings specializing in shoplifted infant formula, over-the-counter medicines, and personal-care products. At least eight of the major baby-formula cases have involved "fences" who are of Middle Eastern descent or who have ties to that region, according to a Monitor review of congressional testimony, news accounts, and a study by the National Retail Federation released Tuesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced money from these infant-formula traffickers back to nations where terrorist groups, such as Hamas and Hizbullah, are active, investigators say. Then, the trail usually goes cold. Once funds enter such countries, there's often no way to track them.

FBI Director Robert Mueller first talked of a possible link in a speech last fall. He did it again in testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence in February, saying: "Middle Eastern criminal enterprises involved in the organized theft and resale of infant formula pose not only an economic threat, but a public health threat to infants, and a potential source of material support to a terrorist organization."

So far, most officials are unwilling to draw conclusive links between proceeds from shoplifted formula and terror financing, saying only that they're "likely" or "probable" in some cases.

"Just because you have an infant- formula operation doesn't mean it's a terror funding operation," says Sergeant Jezierski. "But to say there's no terrorist funding isn't the case either."

While many terrorist groups eschew criminal commerce because it tends to attract police attention, other groups finance themselves with theft, fraud, and smuggling. The Irish Republican Army, Colombia's FARC, and Hizbullah

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

all have engaged in criminal enterprises, says Matthew Levitt, a former FBI counterterrorism analyst, now director of terrorism studies at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Some Al Qaeda cells, mostly at the fringes of their operations, have engaged in criminal self-financing, he says. "Important operational funding can come from these criminal activities... If you are funding yourself, it's freeing up the home organization."

Less convinced is Mardi Mountford, executive director of the International Formula Council, an Atlanta-based trade association that represents infant formula manufacturers in the United States. "We've heard that speculation, but we're not aware of a direct connection."

Theft of baby formula from store shelves has risen over the past decade, costing retailers billions of dollars. Formula was the fourth most-often-shoplifted item last year, according to a survey by the Food Marketing Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

In the wake of several cases in North Carolina and Florida, some retailers have transferred formula from store shelves to behind the counter. One big grocery chain, Albertsons Inc., now keeps a few cans on the shelf - along with a sign directing customers to the courtesy counter.

Calling it "a serious security issue" for retailers, the National Retail Federation unveiled its 200-page report highlighting "organized retail theft" of infant formula. At least seven of the report's 10 case studies detail fencing operations run by citizens of Middle Eastern origin.

"The rings I identified dealing in stolen infant formula are operated mostly by Middle Easterners," says Charles Miller, a loss-prevention consultant and author of the report. They typically organize the rings, pay the shoplifters (who are mostly from Latin America), repackage the formula, and resell it. Out of \$ 30 billion in annual retail theft, about \$ 7 billion of infant formula is stolen and resold for a tidy profit, Mr. Miller estimates.

The scheme works this way: A shoplifter may get \$ 5 for a can of formula from his fence, who then reboxes the loot and sells that to a dishonest retailer for \$ 9 a can. That retailer then sells it for perhaps \$ 15 or \$ 16 a can. The result may be a \$ 6 or \$ 7 profit a can for the dishonest retailer - instead of pennies a can for the honest merchant, Miller says.

Several Middle Eastern businessmen have already been charged or convicted in connection with baby-formula thefts.

Mohammed Khalil Ghali was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison, convicted on 15 counts that included transporting stolen goods and money laundering. A search warrant states that money generated from the sale of the goods was wired to banks in the Middle East, "specifically Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine." Nine of the 11 individuals indicted in the case are of Middle Eastern descent, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Samih Fadl Jamal was a fixture in Phoenix, until investigators discovered that his company gained \$ 11 million in profits from the sale of \$ 22 million of stolen baby formula from 2001 to 2003, prosecutors say.

In all, 27 people connected to the Jamal Trading company scheme were indicted, most from Iraq, Jordan, or Lebanon. Some are naturalized US citizens; others overstayed student or visitor visas, the National Retail Federation report said. Investigators' wiretaps indicated that about \$ 8 million was funneled to countries in the Middle East, where it disappeared. Mr. Jamal, a naturalized US citizen born in Lebanon, was convicted in April of 20 counts of conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property and other related charges, as well as money laundering.

Of course, just because the money goes to the Middle East doesn't mean it's going to terrorists, some groups point out.

"To say that - 'Oh, there's a chance that these funds went to fund terrorism because there are terrorist groups active in this country' - is irresponsible," says Rabia Ahmed of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington. "We've seen many cases like this, where a prominent Muslim leader has been charged with horrible things, but it ends up being some kind of immigration technicality."

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

First identified in the early 1980s, organized retail theft is a key feature of baby-formula theft. Teams of professional shoplifters may travel 200 to 300 miles over a week or more, Miller says. Typically each has a shoplifting list of specific brands of infant formula, medications, shaving products, and batteries given them by their fences.

Shoplifting teams may involve five or six women or young men. Typically they disperse into a store in pairs or separately, posing lookouts to watch for store security. Then a separate team loads carts of formula and goes straight to the exit where a vehicle is waiting, investigators say.

Formula is a favorite of theft rings mostly because of the steady demand, high cost, and large profit margins. Its price is also supported by the US Department of Agriculture's \$ 4.9 billion Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

To battle this trend, Texas authorities mandated that retailers participating in WIC must purchase their infant formula from approved WIC wholesalers or the manufacturers themselves. US Rep. John Carter (R) of Texas sponsored legislation included in the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that aims to eliminate the market for stolen infant formula with a similar mandate. But those measures have not been implemented in most states.

As of May, the USDA has mandated that stores nationwide use a licensed wholesaler, say Oklahoma officials, where a recent burst of formula shoplifting has drawn attention even though Oklahoma is one of the few states that require stores to buy from a licensed wholesaler.

A key problem is that many local law enforcement officers view baby- formula theft as petty shoplifting - and shoplifting laws tend to be soft, experts say. Few shoplifters go to jail.

But there are signs that that attitude is changing. The Retail Industry Leaders Association in March testified before Congress, asking for tougher laws to crack down on organized shoplifting. Major retailers like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens, and others reported to be losing millions on shoplifted baby-formula have internal teams focused on the problem.

Although the FBI has also deployed teams nationwide to crack down on organized retail theft, some investigators say the problem is growing - and moving onto the Internet. On Monday, the online auction house eBay carried more than 1,000 offers of Enfamil baby formula. "This problem is getting worse, no question," Miller says. "It is in every state in the union, and neither law enforcement nor the retailers have their arms around it."

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Load-Date: June 28, 2005

Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

January 31, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 359 words

Body

ISRAELI forces pushed into Bethlehem yesterday for the first time in six months in a sweep for militants.

The push came a day after a Palestinian policeman from the city killed 10 Israelis in a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus.

Near the West Bank city of Hebron, soldiers shot dead a Hamas militant who the army said had opened fire as they entered his house to arrest him.

Reuters

Palestinians said Israeli armoured vehicles rumbled into Bethlehem before daybreak and troops fanned out to search houses, including one where the policeman -- a member of the militant Al Aqsa Brigades -- lived.

Witnesses said soldiers detained 12 Palestinians. About 15 Israeli armoured vehicles took part in the operation.

"The operation was launched after we made clear the Palestinians had not fulfilled their obligations to stop terror, something which was made clear in yesterday's bombing," an army spokesman said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed the bombing and issued a letter left by the bomber that said he was avenging an Israeli raid that killed eight Palestinians in Gaza on Wednesday.

The militant group Hamas also claimed responsibility.

It was the deadliest suicide bombing since an October 4 attack on a Haifa restaurant, when a **female** bomber killed 23.

The bombing overshadowed the latest push by a US envoy to revive the "road map" for peace.

But in a hopeful sign for peace mediation efforts, US officials said Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie had indicated he was ready for a summit with Israeli leader Ariel Sharon.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bombing and also called for a halt to Israeli violence. Sharon expressed his condolences for families bereaved by the bus attack at a ceremony yesterday for three dead soldiers brought home in a deal with Lebanese guerilla foe **Hezbollah**.

Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Israel freed hundreds of Arab prisoners -- including prominent Lebanese militiamen Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani -- in exchange for the three soldiers and a captive businessman, Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was to be questioned by security services after returning to Israel.

Load-Date: January 30, 2004

End of Document

SECRET BID TO END BOMBING; FOCUS MI6 IN UNDERCOVER TALKS WITH HAMAS AS BLAIR WOOS PALESTINIAN MILITANTS

Sunday Express

November 14, 2004

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Section: U.K. 1st Edition; NEWS; Pg. , 11

Length: 829 words

Byline: Additional reporting by Gordon Thomas

Body

OFFICERS from MI6 are trying to strike a deal with the Hamas terrorist group to prevent a new wave of Middle East violence in the aftermath of Yasser Arafat's death.

A secret "back channel" will be opened with the extremists, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings that have killed Israeli women and children, to sound them out about the future of the Palestinian leadership.

Security sources in London, Washington and Tel Aviv all confirm that President Bush and Tony Blair are using their intelligence agencies to buy enough time for a new Palestinian figurehead to emerge with whom the Israelis can do business.

The Secret Intelligence Service approach is to dust off a 40-page plan devised earlier this year, which would have involved Hamas in the security of the Gaza Strip.

That plan, originally blocked by the Americans, spelled out how in return for preventing suicide bombers passing into Israel, the Palestinian groups in Gaza would get a guarantee that their heavy weapons would not be confiscated.

After the White House summit, Mr Bush has made clear that he will get involved in a new peace drive only if there is a tangible chance of success.

He snubbed Mr Blair's requests to sanction an early peace summit or appoint a Middle East envoy.

But the President is keen to bring European states into the process, including France which has close links with the PLO, as a way of kickstarting the peace movement and improving relations with European leaders who opposed the Iraq war.

A Washington-based security source with close links to the Israelis told the Sunday Express: "Bush would like to build a bridge to Europe. This is also a good way for him to put pressure on Ariel Sharon and to tell his US audience that he is not alone." Meanwhile, US plans will focus on crushing the threat from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, based in Lebanon, which last week used unmanned aerial reconnaissance aircraft in what intelligence chiefs fear is a prelude to a new wave of rocket attacks on northern Israel.

SECRET BID TO END BOMBING; FOCUS MI6 IN UNDERCOVER TALKS WITH HAMAS AS BLAIR WOOS
PALESTINIAN MILITANTS

The security source said: "The Europeans and particularly the British will be given carte blanche to get in there and see what they can achieve before Bush touches it with a bargepole. MI6 and the CIA will try to keep a lid on the violence and get everybody in the tent.

"They will be making contact with some very tricky people to try to thrash out some sort of security guarantees. The fear is that Hamas will fill the political vacuum left by Arafat. For a peace plan to succeed we need time to get elections up and running. The Americans are very wary of talking to Hamas. Their priority will be to go after Hezbollah, which also has the benefit of firing a shot across Iranian bows."

Both British and US intelligence favour the emergence of Palestinian security chief Mohammad Dahlan, who spent part of last year in Cambridge improving his English - a cover for meetings with Western intelligence officers.

But the favourite to replace Arafat is Abu Mazen, the new head of the PLO. Marwan Barghouti, a popular leader from Arafat's Fatah guerrilla group, now in an Israeli jail on terror charges, yesterday announced that he too will run. Details of the secret dealings come amid a climate of intrigue, black propaganda and claims that Arafat was poisoned.

Blood samples have been taken from his body before he was interred in Ramallah on the West Bank. The samples, according to a Palestinian spokesman, have been sent to private forensic laboratories in the United States and Germany.

Mossad had tried 13 times to assassinate Arafat, including three poisoning attempts, according to sources in Tel Aviv.

Suspensions were stoked yesterday when Hamas leader Khaled Mashal claimed that Arafat was "poisoned with the same nerve agent Mossad used on me". A three-man Mossad team had tried to inject Mashal in a street in Amman, Jordan.

He was rushed to hospital. When doctors found they could not treat him, the late King Hussein called Israel's then prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who arranged for an antidote to be flown from Israel to Jordan.

ATTENTION is also focused on more than £2billion of missing funds, which Arafat had hidden in foreign bank accounts. Israeli sources say his widow, Suha, will receive £12million a year out of the Palestinian Authority budget, much of which came from Brussels, funded by EU taxpayers.

The money is allegedly to fund the expenses of her lavish life in Paris.

She reached an agreement about the money during a meeting with Mazen, the PLO's newly elected chairman, while she waited by her husband's deathbed in a French military hospital. She insisted on a written deal before allowing Arafat's successors to visit his bedside.

But all is not rosy for Suha. She may be facing a huge inheritance tax liability in France. In January it was reported in an Israeli newspaper that Jean-Claude Gaudin, mayor of Marseilles, disclosed that he had granted her French citizenship when he served as immigration minister.

Load-Date: November 15, 2004

The day Derek realised he had a future in art

The Glebe (Australia)

June 3, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 307 words

Body

THESE days Petersham's Derek Maitland is happy to watch ABC News for his briefing on world events, but it's a far cry from what he's used to.

In his years as an international journalist, Mr Maitland dodged protestant punches in Northern Ireland riots, spent two years evading camouflaged Communists in the Vietnam War, escaped Hezbollah guerrilla fire in Beirut, and was the first camera journalist on the scene when Margaret Thatcher's hotel room was bombed in 1984.

He covered stories and was based in locations aspiring journalists only dream of, but it all came to a screaming halt two years ago.

"Society was telling me it was time for the scrapheap or at least the traditional carpet slippers and garden shears, yet because of radically increased longevity, I could see I had anything up to 30 years or so of life left," said Mr Maitland when he realised it was time to retire.

Australia's 2001 census revealed the median age at death had increased by five years for men and six years for women since 1981.

And it's that prospect which frightened Mr Maitland immeasurably.

He endured two years of "painfully profound thinking" before he realised longevity had offered him a second chance at life.

He turned his efforts to art and launched his first art exhibition Second Wind at Gallery Cafe in Annandale.

"We always say 'if only I had the chance to do it all again'.

"It's very exciting. It's now a question of what you are going to do with those 30 years. I just hope I don't get run over a bus now," he joked.

The Second Wind journey has sparked a Maitland novel centred around the "whole retirement crisis" and "creative ageing".

"There are going to be millions of [baby boomers] reaching retirement. If you don't have a superannuation, you have 30 years extra to look after yourself and if you do, how are you going to spend the it playing golf?"

Load-Date: June 3, 2004

The day Derek realised he had a future in art

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A military difference

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL (LANCASTER, PA.)

November 3, 2004, Wednesday

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Section: EDITORIAL,; IN OUR VIEW

Length: 346 words

Body

The parallel seems too close to ignore - and, for headline writers, too good to resist.

"Al-Qaida kamikazes" slammed passenger planes into skyscrapers; "Palestinian kamikazes" blow up buses full of teen-agers in Jerusalem, and "**female** Chechen kamikazes" march into Russian schools, belted in dynamite.

"We learned how to do suicide missions from the kamikazes," Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, leader of **Hezbollah**, told Japan's ambassador to Lebanon in 2001.

#MILITARYED.LIB#

Just don't say that in front of a real kamikaze.

Believe it or not, some still live. Old men now, as youths they were prepared to give their lives, plunging planes into American warships to keep the Western barbarians away from Japan, but the war ran out before they got the chance.

Recently, a reporter from the Los Angeles Times tracked down some of the survivors and collected their views.

"When I hear the comparison, I feel so sorry for my friends who died, because our mission was totally different from suicide bombers," said Shigeyoshi Hamazono, 81.

"We did what we did for military purposes," says Takeo Tagata, 88. "No matter what supreme ideas they talk about, suicide bombers are just killing innocent civilians, people who don't have anything to do with their war."

The kamikazes achieved legendary status for their myth-shrouded suicide missions. Yet American garrisons and Russian tank crews also knowingly fought to the death in that war. The casualty rates among British airmen in 1940 made their deaths no less certain, and their sacrifices no less deliberate, than those of the kamikazes.

Suicide attacks are not some distinct quality that unites the 9/11 hijackers and the Japanese pilots. Warriors fight other warriors -even when defeat and death are certain. It is a story as old as Roncesvalles, as old as Thermopylae.

The difference, as the silver-haired suicide pilots of 1945 instantly and correctly discern today, is that the kamikazes attacked military targets, but "the main purpose of a suicide bomber is to kill as many innocent civilians as they can." That, Hamazono said, "is just murder."

Load-Date: November 4, 2004

A military difference

End of Document

Universities must lead open discussion of Mideast issues

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

December 30, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A20; Letter

Length: 368 words

Body

The end of the year offers an opportunity to reflect on the still unresolved crisis at Concordia University. Clearly, any plan to rectify matters at Concordia must involve reinviting Israel's former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In the interest of fairness and balance, however, any university seeking knowledge, truth and understanding would also want to invite the counterpart to Mr. Netanyahu; and herein lies the crux of the issue. There is no counterpart. The Gazette

We must remind our students that however distasteful Mr. Netanyahu's lecture might have been for some, it is simply not possible to identify, much less invite, a single living former head of state from any of the 22 independent Arab nations in this world. Let us "analyze that" at our universities.

Because the West plays by different rules and operates in a different universe, most attempts to make moral equations (comparing Israel with its Arab neighbors) are seriously flawed. When such ancient seats of learning as the universities of Cairo and Damascus propagate and publish obscene hate propaganda, then the universities of the West carry an awesome burden of responsibility.

When venerable seats of learning in the Middle East are busily engaged in "educating" future generations of suicide martyrs, Western universities and intellectuals had better put an end to the conspiracy of silence; resisting the pressures of political correctness that have prevented all open and honest discussion of such Middle Eastern phenomena as honour killing, human slavery, persecution of religious and other minorities, school curricula of malignant race hatred, mob justice, fatwas, torture, the abuse and mutilation of women, children and criminals, dictatorships, etc.

The irony of suspending the Hillel student organization on a campus so enriched by outstanding gifts of Jewish learning and philanthropy is matched only by the irony of our federal government's recognition of the "humanitarianism" of Hezbollah while revoking the charitable status of Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross. Let the crisis at Concordia become the occasion and the model for a new beginning of honest political discourse.

Irvin Brandwein

Montreal

Load-Date: December 30, 2002

U.S. policy singles out Syria

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 20, 2005 Sunday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; Newspaper

Length: 833 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Body

There are many things to dislike about Syria.

For decades it has been ruled by dictators. It has supported terrorism against Israel. It has long overstayed its welcome in Lebanon.

But as they say in the penalty phase of a trial, there are mitigating factors. Though most of its 18-million people are Muslim, Syria is a secular country that practices religious freedom. It has generally cooperated with the United States in the global war on terror. It has made conciliatory noises toward Israel and has taken at least a few wobbly steps toward economic and political reform.

In short, Syria isn't a country that fits neatly into a "good" or "evil" slot. Yet it is clear where the Bush administration and other critics want to push it.

Syria's stock hit bottom last week with the horrific bombing that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 16 others. Despite the lack of evidence, the White House, Israel and many Lebanese quickly pointed the finger at Syria, whose longtime control over Lebanese politics had frustrated Hariri and others.

Syria has denied any involvement. While it may have had reason to silence an opponent, it also had reason not to.

"Whoever killed Hariri must have known what the consequences would be, especially since the Bush administration has been increasingly accusing Syria of all sorts of ills," says Rime Allaf, a Mideast expert at London's Chatham House.

"Therefore, I find it very hard to believe, in spite of all the mistakes they've made in Lebanon and elsewhere, that Syria would even think of committing such an atrocity."

Syrians could be excused for feeling they had been unfairly singled out when President Bush recalled the U.S. ambassador to Damascus, saying "Syria is out of step with the progress being made in the greater Middle East."

True, there have been free and fair elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. But Syria is hardly the only Arab country lagging on the march to democracy.

Saudi Arabia's municipal elections were widely considered a sham: Women were banned from voting and the toothless municipal councils will be dominated by members appointed by the kingdom's unelected rulers. The

U.S. policy singles out Syria

authoritarian leaders of Libya and Egypt are grooming their sons to take over when they die. Even moderate countries like Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have nothing close to Western-style democracies.

Syria also gets what some feel is a disproportionate share of blame for anti-American insurgents crossing the border into Iraq. Doubtless, some have entered from Syria, but many have entered from other countries.

The administration has said little about Jordan, even though it was home to insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Nor has there been much criticism of Saudi Arabia, which produced most of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

"There are a lot of other frontier borders, but the only ones that get blamed are Syrians and they were the ones least likely to support Saddam Hussein's regime before," Allaf says. She notes that during the Iran-Iraq war, Syria backed Iran.

Why has Syria become such a bane of the Bush administration?

Syria has long been at odds with America's closest Mideast ally, Israel, for supporting the radical group **Hezbollah** and sheltering other anti-Israel organizations. The two countries also have locked horns over the Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 Mideast War.

Patrick Seale, a British journalist who has written extensively about Syria, says Israel is among several Syrian enemies that might have seen Hariri's murder as a chance to destabilize the regime.

"Right-wing Christians want to expel Syria from Lebanon, Islamists have not forgiven Syria for its repression of the Muslim Brotherhood, while Israel would like to weaken Syria and destroy **Hezbollah**," Seale writes. "Any of these actors might have seized the opportunity to cause Syria great embarrassment at a time when it is under U.S. pressure because of its alleged interference in Iraq."

Israel has denied any connection to the bombing, and there is some speculation it was an al-Qaida attack prompted by Hariri's close ties to Saudi Arabia.

As Hariri's family demands an internationally led investigation, Syrians worry they may be the next target for regime change. But an American expert thinks it's unfortunate the White House has taken such a tough line at a time when Syria's young president, the British-educated Bashar Assad, has shown signs of wanting to liberalize the economy, allow greater public discourse and resume peace talks with Israel.

"There are thugs and hard-liners that have power in Syria, but there are also extremely enlightened people," says Scott C. Davis, author of *The Road from Damascus: A Journey Through Syria*. "The question is, is the United States going to act in such a way that we strengthen and empower the reformers in the country, or do we act in such a way that we empower the hard-liners left over from the Cold War?"

Susan Taylor Martin can be reached at susan@sptimes.com.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; On Saturday, Saadeddine Hariri and Bahaa Hariri, sons of slain Lebanese leader Rafik Hariri, visit the bombing site in Beirut where he died.

Load-Date: February 20, 2005

U.S. policy singles out Syria

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Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

February 7, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; NEWS

Length: 333 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two armed Palestinians infiltrated an Israeli settlement on the West Bank of the Jordan River yesterday, killing three people and wounding four others before soldiers shot and killed one of the attackers, officials and residents said.

Later, an Israeli plane fired a missile at a Palestinian police building in the city of Nablus, witnesses said. Palestinian security officials said the missile strike appeared to be in retaliation for the settlement attack. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman and her daughter were killed and another woman died later in a Jerusalem hospital, witnesses and hospital officials said. Soldiers were searching for the second attacker.

Witnesses said an Israeli F16 fired a single missile that exploded behind a Palestinian prison. No casualties were reported. Palestinians evacuated the prison and buildings around it, expecting further air strikes.

A Lebanese TV station run by the militant **Hezbollah** movement said the attackers came from the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Trying to deflect intense pressure from Israel and the United States, the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, has handed the United States a detailed written response to allegations that it has not acted against terrorism.

The document said the Palestinians have arrested 195 militants, blocked 56 suspect bank accounts, closed 15 illegal munitions factories and 79 unregistered charities and clamped down on militant mosque preachers.

Arafat's government "remains committed to peacefully negotiating an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories," said the document, apparently part of a concerted Palestinian effort to persuade the United States it is sincere in trying to end 16 months of violence and restart peace talks.

The United States has been pressing Arafat to take more decisive action to end the violence -- especially since Israel intercepted an illegal weapons shipment apparently bound from Iran to the Gaza Strip in December.

Graphic

Palestinians kill three women, Israelis respond with air strike

Colour Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) shakes hands with supporters during a meeting in his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday.

Load-Date: February 7, 2002

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