

Lebanon Watch

CONCERNS MOUNT THAT SYRIA IS RE-STOCKING HIZBALLAH'S ARSENAL

Barely two months after Hizballah launched the last of nearly 4,000 rockets at towns in northern Israel, doubt surrounds the effectiveness of a U.N. arms embargo designed to cut off the terrorist army from its state sponsors Iran and Syria.

Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. envoy to the Middle East, said that weapons are still flowing across the Lebanon-Syria border, indicating that Damascus is violating the terms of Security Council Resolution 1701.

In addition to forbidding any outside party from sending weapons to non-governmental groups in Lebanon, Resolution 1701 authorized a U.N. force to help the Lebanese army police the Syrian border.

To date, though, Lebanon has failed to ask for the force's assistance, even after members of the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution urging Beirut to do so.

According to John Bolton, the United States' U.N. ambassador, "fear of retaliation" may be preventing Lebanon from blowing the whistle on efforts to re-arm Hizballah.

A U.N. probe has implicated top members of Syria's intelligence service in the February 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, an opponent of Syrian interference in Lebanon.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has also warned Lebanon not to deploy the U.N. force to the Syrian border, saying the deployment would "create problems" for Beirut.

Meanwhile, Hizballah is vowing to force Lebanon to cede more power to it and other Damascus allies. Hizballah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has demanded veto power over all Lebanese government decisions.

In a recent television interview, Nasrallah said Hizballah had the power to topple Lebanon's government, prompting fears of renewed anarchy on Israel's northern border. •NER•

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NEAR EAST

Report

NOVEMBER 6, 2006

AIPAC'S BIWEEKLY ON AMERICAN
MIDDLE EAST POLICY

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Global Warning

If anyone still doubted Iran's sponsorship of overseas terrorist attacks, an Argentine prosecutor has provided proof positive of Iranian terrorism's worldwide reach.

In an 800-page report, Judge Alberto Nisman implicated top Iranian officials in ordering Hizballah to carry out a 1994 terrorist attack on the Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people and wounded 300.

Nisman said the decision to bomb the building "was undertaken in 1993 by the highest authorities of the then-government of Iran." He asked a federal judge to issue arrest warrants for eight senior Iranian officials including Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was president of Iran at the time and who currently chairs the powerful Expediency Council.

Rafsanjani has spoken matter-of-factly about destroying Israel, declaring that the "application of an atomic bomb would not leave anything in Israel but the same thing would just produce damages in the Muslim world."

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson in Buenos Aires congratulated the prosecutor for his findings in the "most lethal ...see *Editor's Comments cont'd on pg. 78*

New Horizons

ISRAEL AND NATO ARE EXPLORING JOINT ACTION AGAINST COMMON THREATS

Israel has upgraded its ties with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a development with major implications for the Jewish state's diplomatic standing.

On Oct. 16, Israel signed an Individual Cooperation Program (ICP) agreement with NATO creating a formal framework for collaboration in 27 areas of mutual concern, including intelligence, joint military exercises, non-proliferation and the war on terror.

The deal is particularly noteworthy because it constitutes the first ICP NATO has established with a non-European country.

Israeli officials said the accord provides an ideal opportunity for Israel and Europe to confront common challenges multilaterally.



Photo by Associated Press

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni has helped lead efforts to strengthen ties between Israel and NATO.

A week after the signing, Israeli and NATO officials discussed their growing relationship at a conference on NATO-Israel relations at the Institute for Policy and Strategy of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya. Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, NATO's Deputy Secretary General Alessandro Minuto Rizzo and other top NATO and Israeli leaders attended the event.

"Israel's traditional long-term policy has been one of self-reliance," Livni told the conference. "In facing the challenges and threats of the new world, Israel believes also in a strategy of collective security. The current threats necessitate international cooperation and multilateralism."

Rizzo applauded the agreement as well. "A new chapter in the cooperation between ...see *New Horizons cont'd on pg. 78*

Key Supporters

AT AIPAC'S ANNUAL NATIONAL SUMMIT, BOTH WASHINGTON LAWMAKERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENTS TO WORK FOR A STRONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Top U.S. and Israeli insiders recently joined hundreds of pro-Israel activists in Houston at AIPAC's National Summit. The event drew speakers such as former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), Christopher Dodd (D-CT), John Cornyn (R-TX) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and the Rev. Glenn Plummer, founder of the Fellowship of Israel and Black America. Excerpts from their speeches follow.



Photo by Sharon Farmer

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak lauded Summit delegates for "making Israel stronger."

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak

As you all well know, the last few months were not easy for Israel. Looking forward, the compelling good news is that Israel still is the strongest nation state within a 1,000-mile radius of Jerusalem. And it is really true that in a world shaped by the struggle against the triad of nuclear proliferation, world terror



AIPAC NATIONAL SUMMIT SPEAKERS

• EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESSES TO AIPAC'S NATIONAL SUMMIT ON POLICY AND POLITICS •
OCTOBER 22-23, 2006

and rogue regimes, Israel very naturally is a leading player. And the quality of our performance and the depths of our cooperation with the world leader of this struggle, the United States, will have a crucial impact on the results.

It is clear now to almost everyone that that Middle East is a tough neighborhood. It's not the Midwest. We would love to have the Canadians as our neighbors, but you got them. We're in a neighborhood

where there is no mercy for the weak and no second opportunity for those who cannot protect themselves. I believe that our strength is based on several pillars. The military might of the Israel Defense Forces, a robust economy, a cohesive society, the deep coordination with the United States and the overarching asset, our real secret weapon—Jewish solidarity.

We have a joke in Hebrew. We say that a pessimist in the Middle East is an optimist with experience. But in the long term, I'm confident that we will prevail. I want to express my appreciation to each and every one of you and to AIPAC as a collective for what you are doing daily in the Senate, in the Congress, in all counties and states of this great country, for what you are doing for Israel, what you are doing for the Jewish community and for your contribution to future relationships between us and other communities in the American mosaic. You are making Israel stronger.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)

The path to future success for Israel will not be an easy one, and there will be a number of difficult issues.

Tehran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons clearly poses an unacceptable risk. Immediate U.N. Security Council action is required to impose multilateral political and economic sanctions.



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) was one of a number of Texas members of Congress who addressed AIPAC's National Summit.

All photos by Sharon Farmer



Delegates to the Summit got a chance to mingle with guest speakers such as former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.



The Summit attracted more than 1,000 delegates, who chose from a menu of programming options addressing the key issues of the day.



Delegates heard Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) speak.

HOUSTON AL

As Americans, we also need to reassure the reformers and the millions of Iranians who aspire to self-determination that we support their longing for freedom and democra-



Photo by Sharon Farmer

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) said Iran posed an unacceptable threat to the United States and Israel.

cy. After decades of difficult relations with Iran, it is important that we remain on the right side of history, supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Iranian people.

The same holds true for the Palestinian people. They are ill-served by a terrorist-led government that refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist, refuses to renounce violence and refuses to acknowledge prior peace commitments. In view of Hamas' continued refusal to accept basic standards of international decency, the Congress should pass, before the end of this year, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act. This bill has passed both houses in different forms. The leaders of the House and Senate must come together to resolve their differences so that we can pass a final version in November.

This enemy will not be limited to Palestinian terrorism, as the war in Lebanon illustrated so graphically. The ceasefire, the U.N. Security Council resolution, and the peacekeeping force are all welcome attempts to stop the fighting that followed Hizballah's unprovoked attack. There is one bottom line: to achieve peace, sooner or later, Hizballah must be disarmed.

As Americans who have suffered the pain of our own countrymen held in Lebanon, we must also do everything we can to ensure that the two kidnapped soldiers held by Hizballah—and the third held by Hamas—return home safely.

Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT)

We are here today to celebrate the State of Israel for showing, among other things, that the "patience of Job" is no myth.

For six decades, Israel has passed every day in the knowledge that its enemies are praying and plotting for its death. In the face of such hatred, we might have expected the people of Israel to answer with hate of their own. But they have not.

Israel remains an island of openness in a sea of fear. This success belongs to all the Israeli people, and it's more lasting than anything that ever happened on a battlefield. We Americans can't claim more than a sliver of credit for it. But maybe just a sliver.

Because Israel has something that Job never had—a friend who trusts its eyes.

Just like Job, Israel shows its goodness to the world: that its politics are open and

vibrant; that its markets are free and fair; that its laws hold for weak and strong; that its might serves only self-defense. The world knows Israel. But we also know how much of the world prefers ideology to fact, how many choose to make themselves blind to Israel's virtues, because they'd prefer a scapegoat or a convenient demon.

But for six decades, America has been to Israel the friend Job never had, the friend who sees the fact of goodness and says: "That's enough. I'm convinced."

I'm here today to claim my part in that friendship. I can't promise easy answers to the dangers facing Israel, least of all in a brief talk. But I can promise one small and vital thing—I am a man who believes his own eyes. No one will ever have to persuade me



Photo by Sharon Farmer

Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) stressed the common values underlying the U.S.-Israel relationship.

of Israel's goodness, its deep meaning, its necessity. I know already.

I am proud to be part of an American tradition that dates back to May 14, 1948,

BUM: SCENES FROM AIPAC'S 2006 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON POLICY AND



ard from Texas Sens. Kay Bailey and John Cornyn (R).



The Summit included dozens of intimate breakout sessions that allowed delegates to interact with experts on U.S. policy.



Rabbi Zvi Drizen of Dallas, right, was one of 27 rabbis who participated in Summit programming.



The Summit drew more than 100 students from campuses throughout the southern United States.

when it only took America 11 minutes to recognize a new state and a new ally. For nearly 60 years, America and Israel have been two nations that can look across the gulf of history and space and language, and still see, in each other, themselves.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)

The world is becoming more dangerous every week. With North Korea testing a nuclear weapon and knowing, as we do, that North Korea has shipped some of their goods to Iran, we know that this is the time to buckle down and to say we're drawing a line in the sand. Here in Texas, that's what we say, because it happened at the Alamo.

This is the time to draw the line in the sand and say you can't cross any further, not Iran, not North Korea, not any rogue nation that has the nuclear capability.

As part of those efforts, we in Congress are going to make sure that Israel has the means to defend itself.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)

Israel and the United States have a friendship that spans the oceans and is firmly grounded in shared values. We stood together in good times and in bad times, ever since the State of Israel was established. Israel is our constant ally in the Middle East, a partnership strengthened by a mutual belief and commitment to democracy, justice, security, peace and freedom. That alliance must never falter. And I pledge to you to do everything in

my power to see that it never does.

In addition to our shared values, Israel and the United States share a common enemy, one that is foreign in many respects to the Western mind.

David Ben-Gurion said, "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles." Well, I believe in miracles, too, and I believe that one day, the people of



Photo by Sharon Farmer
The Rev. Glenn Plummer has worked to strengthen black and Christian pro-Israel activism.

Israel and the people of America will once again live in peace, if we maintain our resolve to defeat a determined foe.

The Rev. Glenn Plummer

African Americans and Jews have a very deep historical connection. We were both slaves. We have what I like to refer to as a fellowship of suffering. We understand the pain of hatred, the pain of bigotry, the pain of brutality, the pain of torture, and, yes, even the pain of expulsion, being ripped away from your homeland, and

even mass murder. We remember that Jews stood with us when we needed a friend and when we needed help, and I say thank you on behalf of millions of African Americans. Thank you.

You need to know that we remember, and we say to Israel, when Israel needs a friend we will stand with Israel as well. Earlier this year, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein and I founded an organization called the Fellowship of Israel and Black America (FIBA). One of our goals is to mobilize 20 percent of black America for Israel and the Jewish people. And, by the way, that's over a million more people than the total Jewish population in America.

We want to see African Americans by the hundreds of thousands make their journey to Israel, which, by the way, is a desire and dream of most African Americans in this country. You know, if you went into the African-American community and you asked "Where is Mt. Zion? Where is Mt. Moriah? Where is Mr. Carmel?", you may be met with the answer, "Oh, that's the name of the church right around the corner over there," because we have embraced the names of Israeli sites. And so it is not a stretch to say that millions of African Americans dream of going to Israel, to the land of the Bible—the holy land.

And let me say to you at AIPAC, that you are the example that assures us that what we're trying to do at FIBA can be done. We are standing with you. •NER•

ND POLITICS



Former CIA Director R. James Woolsey, left, seated with AIPAC President Howard Friedman, was the featured speaker at a Senate Club dinner.



Summit Co-Chair Roger Sofer, right, greets Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) at the Summit Gala Dinner, which drew federal, state and local officials.



Summit delegates enjoyed a number of sophisticated multimedia presentations, including a discussion via satellite with Haifa's police chief.

Radical Rhetoric

RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN IRANIAN LEADERS STEP UP THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES, AMERICA'S EUROPEAN ALLIES AND ISRAEL, MAGNIFYING FEARS ABOUT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC'S ACCELERATING QUEST FOR NUCLEAR ARMS

As the international community tries to persuade Iran to give up its quest for atomic weapons, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other top Iranian leaders are issuing increasingly belligerent statements threatening to destroy the United States, Europe and Israel.

Casting himself as a divine leader with direct connections to God, Ahmadinejad views himself as a revolutionary figure charged with hastening the arrival of a messianic era in which the world would be ruled in accordance with the dictates of Islam.

Meanwhile, Iran has accelerated its illicit nuclear program and made clear that it has no intention of acceding to Western demands to suspend efforts to enrich uranium, a key step in assembling atomic arms.

Together, Iran's threatening rhetoric and insistence on continuing enrichment raise concerns that one of the world's most radical states will obtain its most dangerous arms.

Iran's President Has Threatened America and Europe

Ahmadinejad, notorious for his threats to Israel, has recently targeted the United States and Europe with incendiary speeches.

"[America] should understand that the message from the peoples of the region ... is manifested in a single slogan," Ahmadinejad proclaimed on October 20 in the town of Eslamshahr. "With clenched fists here the people of Eslamshahr, as the representatives of the Iranian people and all the nations of the region, shout their slogans." The crowd answered the president with chants of "Death to America!"

In the same speech, Ahmadinejad suggested that Europe would face terrorist attacks because of its relationship with Israel.

"We inform you that the nations are like an ocean that is welling up, and if a storm begins, the dimensions will not stay limited to Palestine, and you may get hurt. It is in your own interest to distance yourself from these criminals [Israel]," Ahmadinejad said, adding, "This is an ultimatum."

While Ahmadinejad's speech did not receive the attention paid to his vows to destroy Israel, his anti-Western rhetoric falls squarely within an Iranian tradition of violent hostility to the United States and Europe.

Terrorist groups backed by Iran have killed hundreds of Americans and Europeans since the 1980s, and the Islamic Republic has routinely threatened more attacks against the United States.

Months before Ahmadinejad took power, Iran's military paraded missiles through the streets of Tehran with signs reading, "We will crush America under our feet."

Iranian Leaders Have Continued to Deny Israel's Right to Exist

As Ahmadinejad threatened America and Europe, Iranian officials maintained a steady drumbeat of statements rejecting the legitimacy of Israel.

"Today there is no justification for the existence of this regime [Israel]," Ahmadinejad said, saying the Jewish state "has been imposed on nations of the region and it cannot survive."

Meanwhile, Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former Iranian president who remains powerful in the Islamic Republic, pointed to Hizbullah's recent assault on Israel as a signal that the Jewish state could be destroyed.

The Lebanon war "indicated that if all Muslims participate with unity in the scene, the final victory on the Zionist regime would not be out of reach," said Rafsanjani, who is often labeled a "moderate" in media reports but was recently charged by Argentine prosecutors with helping direct a 1994 terrorist attack against a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires.

Tehran Has Maintained its Defiant Quest for Nuclear Weapons

Iranian leaders have issued their threats to the United States, Europe and Israel in speeches that also contain rejections of internationally backed demands for an end to Tehran's illicit atomic program.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei recently delivered another blow to European-sponsored entreaties for Iran to suspend enrichment activities in return for negotiations and possible incentives. Iran would maintain its atomic work "without retreat," said Khamenei, who wields ultimate authority within Iran's government.

Days after Khamenei's remark, Iran said it had installed and begun operating a second

cascade of centrifuges, the machines in which uranium can be enriched to use as fuel for nuclear weapons.

Adding to the alarm caused by Iran's atomic intransigence, recent statements by Ahmadinejad have reminded Western leaders that nuclear arms would magnify the power of radical Islam's foremost state sponsor.

In September, Ahmadinejad spoke of Iran's desire to become an "invincible power." One month later, he claimed to be



Photo by Associated Press

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has stepped up threats against America and Israel.

speaking directly to God, who informed Ahmadinejad that Iranians would "be the victors" over their opponents.

Additionally, Iran recently rekindled memories of Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial—he called it a "myth"—by staging a contest of cartoons mocking Hitler's slaughter of six million Jews. The winner submitted a drawing depicting a wall being built around the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine in Jerusalem. The wall has a gate similar to the notorious entrance to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

The United States and its European allies are now pushing the U.N. Security Council to sanction Iran to slow its pursuit of nuclear weapons, but it remains unclear when the Council may vote on a sanctions resolution.

According to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, time is not on the Western allies' side. "For the international community to be credible," Rice said, "it must pass a resolution now that holds Iran accountable for its defiance." •NER•

anti-Semitic attack since World War II," saying the investigative report provides "convincing evidence" that the attack "was planned and financed by the government of Iran and carried out with the operational assistance of Hizballah and Iranian diplomats based in Argentina."

In 1992, another bombing was carried out against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 people and wounding 240. While no one has been convicted for that attack, it too has been blamed on Hizballah.

The Argentine report comes at a time of heightened concerns about Hizballah's presence here at home in the United States. Spokesman Paul Bresson has announced that "the FBI has increased its focus on Hizballah," saying "those investigations relate particularly to the potential presence of Hizballah members on U.S. soil."

These startling developments should focus attention on the need to block Iran on the many fronts on which it poses mortal threats to the United States and its allies. Iran is continuing to move ahead with its nuclear weapons program. Iran's support for Hizballah remains intact. Iran is doing all in its power to undermine any prospects of Israeli-Palestinian peace by supporting Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorism.

America and its allies must build a united front to stop further misdeeds by Iran and prevent the radical regime from continuing its nefarious efforts to support terrorism, thwart peace and develop a nuclear arsenal. •NER•

Culture of Violence

IN TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, YOUNG PALESTINIANS ARE BEING REARED ON VIOLENCE AND HATRED OF ISRAEL

As the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority (PA) persists in its refusal to recognize Israel, a culture of violence continues to permeate life within the Palestinian territories.

In a recent dispatch from Gaza, *Ha'aretz* journalist Avi Issacharoff reported that nearly every Palestinian child aged six and up brandishes a toy gun received as a gift during the recent Ramadan holiday. According to Issacharoff, the most popular game played by Palestinian youths is "Jews and Palestinians," in which the children engage in mock combat pitting the good-guy Palestinians against the bad-guy Israelis.

Among Palestinian children, the most popular toy gun resembles a Kalashnikov assault rifle, which is the primary gun employed by Palestinian terrorist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. For \$10, Palestinian kids can acquire a toy version of an Uzi submachine gun, which comes with a laser sight and cartridges filled with tiny plastic bullets.

Issacharoff relates the story of a Palestinian journalist who said that he agonized over the decision to buy his 10-year-old son a toy gun for Ramadan. A., who wished to remain anonymous, wanted to distance his son from violence, but decided to give the boy money to do with as he pleased. "He chose a short-barreled M-16 with sights, and that's what frightens me, and ought to scare you, too," A. said.

Under the internationally backed Roadmap peace plan, the Palestinian Authority is required to end incitement to violence against Israel. However, official Palestinian Authority newspapers and other media regularly produce stories that promulgate negative stereotypes against Jews and celebrate violence against Israelis.

A. expressed to Issacharoff his concern about the danger of demonizing Israel and encouraging a reverence for terrorist violence. "[I]n another 20 years, you will find here a generation that knows nothing but war." •NER•

New Horizons....cont'd from pg. 73

Israel and NATO has opened," he said. "It is a development that was long overdue, a development that corresponds to the imperative of cooperation in a globalized world."

He added that the pact "covers many areas of common interest, such as the fight against terrorism and joint military exercises, where Israel's expertise is very much valued."

While both Israel and NATO agree that

the ICP constitutes a positive development, they also acknowledge that full Israeli membership in NATO is not presently an option.


Some NATO members oppose Israel's candidacy pending the Arab-Israeli conflict's resolution, while many Israelis oppose membership because it would entail sacrificing some of the country's military independence and consequent deterrent ability. •NER•

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