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Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

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YaHoo! News

REUTERS

Alzheimer's drug may be poison antidote

By Maggie Fox, Health and Science Correspondent

Mon Aug 7, 5:11 PM ET

An Alzheimer's pill that helps slow the brain damage caused by the disease may also protect against the effects of nerve gases and pesticides, U.S. researchers reported on Monday.

They said the drug, marketed under the name Reminyl and Razadyne, completely protected guinea pigs against the nerve agents soman and sarin, as well as toxic amounts of pesticides.

They gave the animals high doses of the poisons and treated them with Reminyl, known generically as galantamine, along with atropine, often given as an antidote for organophosphate pesticides such as paraoxon.

"To our amazement, the animals treated with galantamine behaved as if they had not been exposed to these lethal agents," Dr. Edson Albuquerque, chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said in a statement.

The guinea pigs, all of them male, survived with no apparent ill effects, Albuquerque said, and the galantamine protected the animals with or without atropine.

"I think maybe we have something that can protect us against bad terrorists," he said in a telephone interview, adding that the next step was to test female guinea pigs. Albuquerque said he has tested other drugs in the same class as Reminyl, and they do not have the same effects. "The only medication currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration to prevent the catastrophic effects of nerve agent poisoning does not protect the brain," Albuquerque said. "This medication, pyridostigmine, doesn't effectively cross the blood-brain barrier."

The blood-brain barrier is made up of cells that stop certain molecules from getting into the brain.

Writing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Albuquerque and colleagues at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense and the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, both in Maryland, said their research could benefit farm workers and soldiers.

"This simple and safe antidotal therapy could be added to the arsenal of medications carried by all military members and first responders, who could easily administer it to themselves should they suspect that they've been exposed to a nerve agent," Albuquerque said.

The drug is made by Britain's Shire Pharmaceuticals and licensed outside Britain to Janssen Pharmaceutica NV, a unit of Johnson & Johnson.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060807/sc_nm/antidote_dc

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Washington Post

August 9, 2006

Pg. 4

Positive Signs Not Seen In Iran's Nuclear Efforts

With deadlines approaching, the State Department said that it has seen no indications that Iran plans to comply with the United Nations' demands that it suspend its enrichment of uranium.

"There have been a variety of public statements from the Iranians, but we haven't seen any evidence yet that they are complying with the demand and requirement of the international community," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

The U.N. Security Council passed a resolution on July 31 giving Iran until Aug. 31 to suspend the enrichment or face the threat of economic and diplomatic sanctions. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will confer with foreign ministers in New York this week on how to deal with Iran, McCormack said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/08/AR2006080801283.html>

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Washington Times

August 10, 2006

Pg. 4

Nuclear Specialists Move Uranium

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

U.S. and international officials completed a covert operation yesterday to remove 90 pounds of easy-to-handle uranium from a research facility in Poland that was vulnerable to theft by terrorists, according to Bush administration officials.

"We are in a race against time in preventing terrorists from getting their hands on this kind of material," said Bryan Wilkes, a spokesman for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), who took part in the uranium-removal operation.

"There is more to be done, and our people are working around the world to help secure this material," he said in a telephone interview from Warsaw.

The 90 pounds of so-called "fresh" highly enriched uranium (HEU) was removed by heavily armed secret convoy Tuesday night from Poland's Maria research reactor at the Institute of Atomic Energy in Otwock-Swierk, Poland, officials said.

Fresh uranium is less radioactive and easier to handle and transport than irradiated HEU, and thus is a target for terrorists and criminals seeking to acquire nuclear material for bombs, Mr. Wilkes said.

Nuclear specialists from the NNSA, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Polish and Russian governments took part in the two-day operation at the civilian research center, located about 20 miles southeast of Warsaw.

The material was taken to a Polish airfield, where it was then transported by a Russian An-12 cargo aircraft to a secure plant at Dimitrovgrad, Russia. The uranium will be blended there to make it less vulnerable for theft or terrorist use.

The operation began several months ago after NNSA officials learned that the large amount of fresh HEU was stored at the reactor facility, built by the Soviet Union in the 1970s. The U.S. government paid for the operation, which cost about \$500,000.

The NNSA also had installed equipment to improve the security of the facility and will help Poland convert the facility in the future to one using low-enriched uranium.

It was the largest amount of HEU removed under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, a program to secure or dispose of high-risk and vulnerable nuclear and radiological material around the world.

So far, the program has recovered and returned to Russia about 506 pounds of HEU from Soviet-era reactors in Serbia, Bulgaria, Libya, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Czech Republic and Poland, according to officials.

U.S. intelligence officials say terrorists, including al Qaeda, are seeking to develop and use nuclear or radiation bombs in terrorist attacks.

Documents recovered by U.S. military forces after the ouster of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001 revealed that al Qaeda was seeking information and material related to nuclear arms, according to a CIA report from 2003.

One document contained a sketch of a crude nuclear device. Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden also has told his followers that it is a religious duty of all Muslims to acquire nuclear weapons.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060809-110542-2255r.htm>

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Washington Post

August 11, 2006

Pg. 19

The Only Option Is To Win

By Newt Gingrich

Yesterday on this page, in a serious and thoughtful survey of a world in crisis, Richard Holbrooke listed 13 countries that could be involved in violence in the near future: Lebanon, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan, Somalia. And in addition, of course, the United States.

With those 14 nations Holbrooke could make the case for what I describe as "an emerging third world war" -- a long-running conflict whose latest manifestation was brought home to Americans yesterday with the disclosure in London of yet another ghastly terrorist plot -- this one intended to destroy a number of airliners en route to America. But while Holbrooke lists the geography accurately, he then asserts an analysis and a goal that do not fit the current threats.

First, he asserts that the Iranian nuclear threat is far less dangerous than violence in southern Lebanon. Speaking of the Iranian-American negotiations, Holbrooke asks, "And why has that dialogue been restricted to the nuclear issue - - vitally important to be sure, but not as urgent at this moment as Iran's sponsorship and arming of Hezbollah and its support of actions against U.S. forces in Iraq?"

In fact an Iran armed with nuclear weapons is a mortal threat to American, Israeli and European cities. If a nonnuclear Iran is prepared to finance, arm and train Hezbollah, sustain a war against Israel from southern Lebanon and, in Holbrooke's own words, "support actions against U.S. forces in Iraq," then what would a nuclear Iran be likely to do? Remember, Iranian officials were present at North Korea's missile launches on our Fourth of July, and it is noteworthy that Venezuela's anti-American dictator, Hugo Chávez, has visited Iran five times.

It is because the Bush administration has failed to win this argument over the direct threat of Iranian and North Korean nuclear and biological weapons that Americans are divided and uncertain about our national security interests.

Nevertheless, Holbrooke has set the stage for an important national debate that goes well beyond such awful possibilities as Sept. 11-style airliner plots. It's a debate about whether we are in danger of losing one or more U.S. cities, whether the world faces the possibility of a second Holocaust should Iran use nuclear or biological weapons against Israel, and whether a nuclear Iran would dominate the Persian Gulf and the world's energy supplies. This is the most important debate of our time. It rivals both Winston Churchill's argument in the 1930s over the nature of Hitler and the Nazis and Harry Truman's argument in the 1940s about the emerging Soviet empire.

Yet Holbrooke indicates that he would take the wrong path on American national security. He asserts that "containing the violence must be Washington's first priority."

As a goal this is precisely wrong. Defeating the terrorists and thwarting efforts by Iran and North Korea to gain nuclear and biological weapons must be the first goal of American policy. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, if

violence is necessary to defeat the terrorists, the Iranians and the North Koreans, then it is regrettably necessary. If they can be disarmed with less violence, then that is desirable. But a nonviolent solution that allows the terrorists to become better trained, better organized, more numerous and better armed is a defeat. A nonviolent solution that leads to North Korean and Iranian nuclear weapons threatening us across the planet is a defeat.

This failure to understand the nature of the threat is captured in Holbrooke's assertion that diplomacy can lead to "finding a stable and secure solution that protects Israel." If Iran gets nuclear weapons, there will be no diplomacy capable of protecting Israel. If Iran continues to fund and equip Hezbollah, there will be no stability or security for Israel. Diplomacy cannot substitute for victory against an opponent who openly states that he wants to eliminate you from the face of the earth.

Our enemies are quite public and repetitive in saying what they want. Not since Adolf Hitler has any group been as bloodthirsty and as open. If Holbrooke really wants a "stable and secure" Israel he will not find it by trying to appease Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas.

This issue of national security goals will be at the heart of the American dialogue for some time. If our enemies are truly our enemies (and their words and deeds are certainly those of enemies) then victory should be our goal. If nuclear and biological threats are real, then aggressive strategies to disarm them if possible and defeat them if necessary will be required.

Holbrooke represents the diplomacy first-diplomacy always school. We saw its workings throughout the 1990s, as Syria was visited again and again by secretaries of state who achieved absolutely nothing. Even a secretary of state dancing with Kim Jong Il (arguably a low point in American diplomatic efforts) produced no results; such niceties never do in dealing with vicious dictators.

The democracies have been talking while the dictators and the terrorists gain strength and move closer to having the weapons necessary for a terrifying assault on America and its allies. The arrests yesterday of British citizens allegedly plotting to blow up American airliners over the Atlantic Ocean are only the latest example of the determination of our enemies. This makes the dialogue on our national security even more important.

Richard Holbrooke has established a framework for a clear debate. The Bush administration should take up his challenge.

The writer, a former speaker of the House, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and author of "Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/10/AR2006081001311.html>

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YaHoo! Asia News

Kyodo News

Friday August 11, 2:31 PM

Freeze dryer might be used at clinic for Kim Jong Il

(Kyodo) _ The freeze dryer a Korean trader exported to North Korea four years ago might be used at a Pyongyang clinic for top leader Kim Jong Il, Japanese police sources said Friday.

The trader -- Kim Young Gun, 58, former president of the Tokyo-based Meisho Yoko trading house -- has told Japanese investigators that he had heard that the dryer would be used at the Ponghwa clinic, the sources said.

The Ponghwa clinic is known to be reserved for only a limited number of VIPs -- high-ranking members of the country's governing Workers Party of Korea.

The sources also said the freeze dryer might be used at the Ponghwa clinic, a facility suspected to be the site of North Korea's researches on biological weapons.

Kim Young Gun, a Korean resident of Japan, was arrested Thursday for illegally exporting to North Korea the freeze dryer that could be converted and used for producing biological weapons.

Freeze dryers, which quickly dry solid substances in a vacuum, are mainly used to produce instant coffee granules or instant noodles. Exports of the machines are strictly controlled under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law as freeze dryers can be used to keep and cultivate bacteria over long periods of time and can be converted to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Meisho Yoko, based in Tokyo's Suginami Ward, exported the freeze dryer in September 2002 in response to an order placed by a North Korean trading house on behalf of another trader called HELM Pyongyang.

HELM Pyongyang has accepted staff from the Korea Rungra 888 trading house which is under Kim Jong Il's direct control.

On Thursday, a team of investigators from Yamaguchi and Shimane prefectural police departments arrested Kim on suspicion of violating the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law for exporting the dryer via a Taiwan trading house without gaining permission from the minister of economy, trade and industry.

Meisho Yoko is suspected of placing an order for the dryer with the Taiwan trading house, which then bought it through a Tokyo-based scientific instrument maker's sales agent based in Taiwan and passed it on to Meisho Yoko. <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/060811/kyodo/d8je28fg0.html>

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Los Angeles Times

The Man Who Exposed the Soviets' Viral Terror

Lev Sandakhchiev raised the barbed wire on a deadly Cold War secret and saved the world from bioweapon horror.

By Judith Miller

JUDITH MILLER, a former New York Times reporter, is a coauthor of "Germs: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War."

August 13, 2006

A MAJOR CHAPTER in biological warfare quietly closed in June with the death of Lev S. Sandakhchiev, an extraordinary 70-year-old Russian scientist who until last year had led the former Soviet Union's most terrifying center of viral research. Located in remote Siberia, the State Research Center of Virology and Biotechnology, informally known as Vector — worthy of James Bond — had throughout the Cold War been turning the world's most hideous diseases into weapons. A secret research facility, Vector had long been the target of American intelligence efforts and, as it turned out, justified anxiety.

For decades, the U.S. could only speculate about the lab's frightful accomplishments. Then Sandakhchiev made a courageous decision. A compact, wiry, chain-smoking scientist, he grasped after the Soviet Union's collapse that the survival of his lab and its scientists depended on abandoning his life's long work in bioweapons and opening up to the West.

In 1993, he astonished Russian and American scientists at an international meeting by shouting the Russian equivalent of "Let's cut the crap" when some of his colleagues denied that Moscow had long violated the anti-germ warfare treaty it had been among the first to sign. In 1999, Sandakhchiev further outraged some of his colleagues by permitting an American journalist to tour Vector and write about what was done there and his hopes for peaceful cooperation with American scientists. The implications of what I saw have haunted me ever since.

Behind barbed wire, Vector sprawled over 100 buildings and included warrens of animal pens, massive labs designed to contain smallpox, anthrax and plague germs, and even its own cemetery, in which a scientist who had accidentally injected himself with Marburg virus had been buried in a zinc-lined grave. Vector had been experimenting with viruses such as Marburg and Ebola, nature's own weapons of mass destruction, to which there were no antidotes.

The scale was breathtaking. The virus that causes smallpox had been mankind's greatest scourge. Microscopic quantities could kill millions. Yet Vector had secretly produced tons.

Now a Vector spin-off makes cosmetics. The lab also remains one of two World Health Organization-designated repositories of the smallpox virus; the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta is the other. And Vector is seeking WHO designation as a global center for combating avian flu.

Sandakhchiev's scientific glasnost allowed him to preserve his institute and stop his scientists from being recruited by Iran and other germ weapon-hunting states and terrorist groups. But he couldn't have done it without a visionary, underappreciated American program. Created in 1991 by Sam Nunn, the former Democratic senator from Georgia, and Sen. Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, the Cooperative Threat Reduction program in 1998 provided an emergency \$1-million grant — chump change by government standards — to underwrite Sandakhchiev's outreach to the West.

As a result, Vector was able to spurn Iran's offers, and the United States was finally able to confirm defector reports and understand other key aspects of the Soviet Union's clandestine germ empire, which at its peak in the late 1980s employed about 60,000 scientists and technicians in secret facilities throughout the land.

In the end, Sandakhchiev's biggest contribution may have been his example, which helped persuade many other Soviet scientists to abandon secrecy and turn their expertise in chemical and biological warfare to peaceful pursuits. Needless to say, some nationalistic hard-liners in Russia resisted scientific exchanges and Vector's growing ties to the West. For their part, some U.S. officials suspected that military work was continuing at Vector and elsewhere. Such fears were largely but not totally allayed, at least at Vector, by 2000, when audits of its grants showed that the dollars Washington had invested there — \$30 million at last count — had been spent as Congress intended.

In the battle against germ weapons, as in medicine itself, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. For about \$500 million a year — about the cost of two days of the Iraq war — the Nunn-Lugar threat-reduction programs have helped deny nuclear, chemical and deadly biological materials and expertise to hostile states and terrorists.

Despite this record, the program has often struggled for funding, particularly its biological work. In the year after 9/11 and the anthrax-letter attacks, Nunn-Lugar funding actually dipped. The U.S. is spending lots of money to stop the spread of deadly pathogens, but not enough in Russia, which only 15 years ago had the world's most advanced bioweapons program. Spending just \$50 million to \$70 million more over five years would help Russia consolidate and safeguard its pathogens in about a dozen new repositories, benefiting both nations' biosecurity.

Both the Pentagon and the State Department sent wreaths to Sandakhchiev's funeral. Appropriately so.

Sandakhchiev may well have taken some terrible secrets to his grave. But it's hard to overestimate his contribution to demonstrating that archenemies of 50 years can cooperate to battle disease, rather than spread it for military gain. A far more meaningful tribute to him would be increased spending to stop the proliferation of the world's deadliest germs and other sources of unconventional weapons.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-jmiller13aug13.0.1225730.story?coll=la-opinion-rightrail>

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Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)

August 13, 2006

N. Korea Suspected Of Drug Trafficking

Rogue government thought to rely on illicit activities to fund nuke programs

By Associated Press

TOKYO — The freighter Turubong 1 sailed from the North Korean port of Chongjin. Somewhere in the Sea of Japan off the coast of the quiet village of Sakaiminato, its crew dumped 522 pounds of amphetamines overboard for retrieval by smugglers.

Japanese gangsters would later buy and attempt to distribute the drugs. Four years after the deal went down, Japanese police have made their first arrests in the case — seven Japanese and a South Korean intermediary. But authorities say larger forces were at play.

"North Korea was involved as a government," National Police Agency Chief Iwao Uruma said recently. It was the first time Japanese police publicly voiced suspicions of the North Korean regime's involvement in drug production and trafficking — with Japan as its primary target.

Uruma provided no details, but his remark reflects a widespread assumption that in a society as tightly controlled as North Korea, there must be official complicity, if not outright encouragement, in the illegal drug trade.

His allegation comes at a politically charged time and may have been an attempt, in part, to turn up the pressure on North Korea to curtail its development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles and to come clean on its abductions of more than a dozen Japanese citizens in the late 1970s and '80s.

But suspicions about the drug trade have hung over the North for years.

In March, the State Department said "it is likely, but not certain, that the North Korean government sponsors criminal activities, including narcotics production and trafficking."

A report prepared for Congress after a spate of high-profile busts in 2003 said the North was linked to drug trafficking in 50 incidents in 20 countries, many involving the arrest or detention of North Korean diplomats. Months before that report was issued, a North Korea cargo ship owned by a state-run enterprise tried to smuggle more than 275 pounds of heroin into Australia.

The report by the Congressional Research Service said North Korea was suspected of producing 10-15 tons of "the highest quality" methamphetamines a year and also accused the communist country of diverting land that could be used for food crops for the cultivation of opium poppies, despite North Korea's chronic food shortages.

The congressional report cited growing concerns that drug trafficking, along with alleged counterfeiting and other organized crime, "may be used to underwrite the cost of maintaining or expanding North Korean nuclear and missile programs."

Japanese authorities, meanwhile, have intensified anti-narcotics operations.

The crackdown may be paying off: No drugs clearly traceable to North Korea have been seized for three years. Four years ago, one-third of crystal meth seized in Japan was believed to have been manufactured in North Korea. But smugglers could also just be changing tactics.

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/141870.php>

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Moscow Times

August 15, 2006

Pg. 7

Plutonium Reactors To Be Shut By 2010

By Yuriy Humber, Staff Writer

Russia's last three plutonium-producing atomic reactors will be shut down by 2010 as part of a \$728 million program funded mostly by the United States, the Federal Atomic Energy Agency said Monday.

The announcement came a day before Russia was due to start building a coal-fired power station at Zheleznogorsk, in the Krasnoyarsk region, that will replace the town's plutonium-producing reactor, one of the three.

As part of a drive to stem the proliferation risk from plutonium, a high-grade element easily adapted for military use, the U.S. government has agreed to invest in facilities to replace the energy lost from closing the reactors, the agency said in a statement.

The announcement of the reactors' closure comes nearly nine years after the two countries signed an agreement to halt the production of weapons-grade plutonium worldwide.

"This is a step towards realizing the 1997 agreement," a spokesman for the agency said Monday.

On Tuesday, officials from the Federal Atomic Energy Agency and the U.S. Energy Department are expected to attend a ceremony to mark the start of construction of the \$443 million coal-powered plant in Zheleznogorsk.

The rest of the U.S. money, \$285 million, will be put toward the expansion of an existing Severskaya coal power station in the Tomsk region by 2008, where the other two plutonium-producing reactors are to be closed down, the agency said.

"There have been a lot of problems and delays with the Krasnoyarsk project because of funding issues, so this is a great event that fits in the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership," said nonproliferation expert Rose Gottenmoeller, who heads the Carnegie Moscow Center. The partnership is a U.S. initiative to bring nuclear countries together to cooperate on atomic reactor construction and safety, and irradiated fuel disposal.

Though using uranium as fuel, plutonium reactors produce weapons-grade plutonium that can be used for nuclear arms. One reactor produces 1.2 tons of plutonium per year, Gottenmoeller said.

"For the U.S., this is a good investment" from an energy and safety standpoint, she said.

Under the 1997 agreement, Russia's last three plutonium-producing reactors were supposed to be converted to civilian use by 2000. Russia had already shut down 10 plutonium-producing reactors before 1997.

It was eventually decided that converting the reactors would prove too costly, and that it was better to close them. Since 1997, the two countries have worked on a number of initiatives to safeguard nuclear fuel, including an agreement to cut plutonium stockpiles by 30 tons each.

"Now it will be important for the Russians to demonstrate that they will take responsibility for such projects, including financial responsibility," Gottenmoeller said. Russia made a step in this direction earlier this year by pledging to spend \$2 billion on dismantling its nuclear submarines and destroying chemical weapon stocks, she said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2006/08/15/043.html>

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New York Times

August 17, 2006

Iranian Says Talks Can Cover Uranium

TEHRAN, Aug. 16 — Iran's foreign minister said Wednesday that Iran was willing to discuss suspending uranium enrichment during negotiations with European countries and China.

The foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, spoke two weeks before the Aug. 31 deadline set by the United Nations Security Council for Iran to halt the enrichment or face sanctions.

Other Iranian officials, including President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, have responded defiantly to the demand to suspend the program, which Iran says is intended to make fuel for nuclear power plants and is not a cover for a secret effort to make nuclear weapons. Iran has said it will respond by Tuesday to a European-led offer of incentives to suspend enrichment.

"We declared that the best way is to resume negotiations," Mr. Mottaki said at a news conference here, the ISNA news agency reported.

"We can even discuss the issue of suspension, which is not acceptable based on any logic," he said. Mr. Mottaki added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will not back down from its rights under any circumstances."

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/17/world/middleeast/17iran.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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New York Times
August 18, 2006

U.S. Predicts Fast Action At U.N. If Sanctions On Iran Are Needed

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 — A senior Bush administration official said Thursday that he anticipated that the United Nations would move rapidly in September to impose sanctions on Iran if it refused to halt uranium enrichment, a process central to building nuclear weapons.

The official, R. Nicholas Burns, the under secretary of state for political affairs, said the punishment “will be well deserved” if Iran failed to act by a looming deadline set by the Security Council.

The Security Council voted late last month to give Iran until Aug. 31 to accept a package of European Union-led incentives in exchange for suspending its uranium enrichment, or suffer the penalty of economic sanctions.

“It’s not a mystery to the Iranians what is going to happen,” Mr. Burns said during a breakfast meeting with reporters.

“I think we would want to move very quickly in the first part of September toward a debate in the Security Council about sanctions,” he said. “They will be well deserved as this has gone on a long time.”

Mr. Burns emphasized that the United States already had agreements from Russia and China and other Security Council members to move to economic sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter if Iran failed to comply.

The resolution passed by the Security Council on July 31 demands that Iran suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing work by the end of August or face the possibility of sanctions. It noted the need for “further decisions,” however, before any punishments for noncompliance could be pursued.

Some diplomats have suggested that Russia and China — which have joined the major powers threatening Iran with economic sanctions — may not in the end vote to approve the sanctions and may even exercise their veto power in the Security Council.

Mr. Burns said Iran’s role in creating, financing and arming Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon in their fight against Israel “will reinforce the effort to hold Iran accountable should they not provide the clear answer needed” on the nuclear issue.

“The will of a lot of countries has been strengthened by watching the Iranian government trying to destabilize both Lebanon and Israel over the last 30 to 40 days,” he said.

News agency reports on Thursday from Iran said President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had vowed that his country could not abandon its nuclear program while the United States was developing its own nuclear weapons.

The Iranian government denies that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons and says its nuclear program is peaceful, for research and energy development.

Iran has said it set a deadline of next Tuesday to respond to an offer of economic incentives from six major powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — in exchange for ending its uranium enrichment program.

But Mr. Burns dismissed the Tuesday deadline as a “mythical date.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/18/world/middleeast/18iran.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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American Chronicle
Friday, August 18, 2006

Britain's Muslim Clerics Command Secret Militias

Jim Kouri, CPP

August 15, 2006

Now that radical imam Abu Hamza is a convicted felon and probably will be extradited and face terror charges in the United States, clerics from other mosques are finally coming forward to tell the world how Hamza sent teams of young supporters -- his own private militia -- in Britain with orders to takeover other mosques.

Several clerics told stories of being threatened by gangs claiming to be members of Abu Hamza’s Supporters of Sharia group. Some of the clerics were beaten inside their own mosques, and worshippers were bullied into finding new places to pray -- and the police refused to intervene, they claim.

One police official, under condition of anonymity, said that law enforcement executives in Britain were overly cautious about their interaction with Muslim leaders and their mosques. He claims that several radical Islamic clerics possess their own private militias -- fully armed and operating in total secrecy.

Police came underfire when they swarmed one mosque with search warrants in hand. To their credit they uncovered a cache of weapons, forged identity documents and recipes for chemical weapons such as the highly dangerous Ricin; all of it hidden in the mosque.

The stash of equipment included chemical warfare protection suits, or NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) suits, as they are technically known. British detectives believe the equipment and weapons were being used in terror training camps located somewhere within the United Kingdom.

Abu Hamza wanted to acquire more places where he and his lieutenants could indoctrinate a new generation of followers and send them off to terror training camps abroad.

Even some of his own followers became disenchanted with his tactics. They described how he was more like a Mafia godfather than a religious leader in dealing with anyone he believed defied him. Two rival imams in London claim they were hospitalized after being attacked, and they complained that Scotland Yard practically ignored their assault complaints.

In one of his sermons, heard by the jury during his London trial, Abu Hamza bragged about how his violent tactics bore fruit. He said, "If the people know you are firm, they will back down. They all back down."

His silent rein of terror began in the late 1980s when he became a member of a group of Algerian-born radicals trying to take over the Central London Mosque.

Fazli Ali, 66, the former estates manager there told the London police: "Hamza and his cronies threatened me several times. I was head of security but they even threatened to kill me. Ours was a peaceful place but he wanted to turn it into a political arena."

The religious leaders eventually evicted and banned Hamza from their mosque. But Hamza, determined to be an Islamic leader to be reckoned with, sought out more vulnerable mosques and mainstream Islamic organizations around Britain.

These newly infiltrated mosques provided Hamza with recruiting centers ripe with potential radical Islamists. They also were used to raise money which is believed to have funded terror operations and training for new recruits.

There were also criminal operations such as producing bogus welfare claims and cloning credit cards.

It was from their mosques that over 100 immigrant Muslims and British-born Islamic converts were sent to Middle East locations where they attended al-Qaeda training camps. British officials including those within MI5 conceded that they don't know what happened to these men sent for training. They believe some may have been killed in combat or suicide bomb attacks, with most disappearing like a wisp of smoke.

According to one news story in the Sunday Times of London, Imams reported what was happening to police, but say that senior officers were reluctant to interfere in the internal affairs of mosques. Some imams sued Abu Hamza in the civil court hoping to stop his plans, but they found the cases too costly and the court proceedings dragged on and on. Most of Hamza's rival clerics were just too frightened to buck his associates who acted as his private militia in the middle of London.

Terrorism experts in the US believe similar situations exist in mosques across the country and political correctness prevents federal and local law enforcement from singling out and investigating -- including infiltrating -- these religious facilities.

For instance, several US senators have voiced concerns that the US Bureau of Prisons uses the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (GISS), which is under investigation for possible funneling of money to terrorists, and the Islamic Society of North America, which has board members with terror links.

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