

ISRAEL PREPARING FOR FULL-SCALE WAR

Israel is preparing for full scale war in which Syria is expected to be one of the main players facing the Jewish state. Both **Syria** and **Iran** now top Israel's defence priority list, superceding the Palestinian threat, according to a number of Israeli officials quoted in *The Sunday Times*.

A defence analyst sourced in the report opined that Israel had missed a golden opportunity to reduce the Syrian threat during the war against Lebanon's Hizb'allah last July. The Syrian air force could have been destroyed in a couple of days, effectively leaving that country without the air cover it would need should it decide to launch its SCUD missiles on Israel.

This assessment just adds to the numerous others that together have concluded Israel lost the July war, and will pay for that failure when the next conflict erupts. -
Source: The Jerusalem Post / Nov 12, 06

Many reports and commentators are now anticipating a major war, and in fact, anyone who is keenly watching the Middle East Cauldron should be able to see it coming. Here's some of the recent news items:

ISRAEL WILL SOON GO TO WAR AGAIN

Another war between Israel and Hizb'allah is inevitable and unavoidable as Hizb'allah is rebuilding and replenishing its stocks of missiles in south Lebanon.

After the Katyusha War in July-Aug, Hizb'allah, in spite of suffering heavy losses in the fighting, and as many as 1,000 killed out of its militant strength of up to 5,000, portrayed itself as "the winner."

The war was certainly a setback for Israel, but it was not the defeat that much of the news media reported it to be. The Israel Defence Force (IDF) did not suddenly lose its historic superiority over its Arab enemies.

Hizb'allah launched a fierce attack on the towns of northern Israel, but its own survival was due to the extensive bunker-and-tunnel system that it had constructed since June 2000. The tunnel system could not be destroyed by the Israeli Air Force. A full scale land assault was needed. Israel's political leaders were reluctant to commit to such an assault until it was too late. Israel's strategy was to rain down a lot of destruction on Hizb'allah's headquarters in Beirut, and other targets, but it was flawed in that one main objective - silencing the Katyusha rockets - could not be fulfilled before the UN ceasefire forced the IDF to withdraw.

Now that Hizb'allah has re-established a "zone of invulnerability," Israel will be compelled to reopen its offensive against this sworn enemy on its northern border.

An Israeli return to south Lebanon would most likely provoke a war with Lebanon's Arab protector, Syria. But such an extension of hostilities might prove welcome both to Israel and to the US, both of which regard Syria as Iran's advanced post on the Mediterranean shore. -
Source: Daily Telegraph (UK) / Nov 6, 06

THE COMING MIDDLE EAST WAR

Israel's foes are gearing up for war; the warning signs are everywhere.

In **Lebanon**, **Hizb'allah** is busy rebuilding its expansive terrorist infrastructure after last summer's fighting with Israel. Under the protective shield of UN troops, the group has been welcoming large shipments of weapons from Iran and Syria, and fortifying its bunkers in advance of the next round of conflict.

Hizb'allah leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, has asserted that his organization still has "more than 20,000 rockets" and that it had "recovered all its organizational and military capabilities." Even allowing for boasting and exaggeration, there are clear signs that Nasrallah is steadily engaged in rebuilding his forces.

Brig.-Gen. Yossi Baidatz, head of the IDF intelligence directorate's research dept. says there is conclusive and decisive evidence that Syria is rearming Hizb'allah. "The weapons smuggling from Syria into Lebanon is continuing with official Syrian involvement."

Syrian President Bashar Assad has recently made a series of public statements, speaking openly about the possibility of military conflict with Israel and his desire to retake the Golan Heights by force. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anba* on October 6, Assad said that Damascus was ready for war with the Jewish state.

In **Tehran**, the Iranian president continues to rave on about wiping Israel off the map, and continues to pursue his nuclear ambitions. Speaking at a mosque in Tehran, Ahmadinejad insisted that he had received a Divine message indicating that his country would prevail. "One day," he said, "I will be asked whether I have been in touch with someone who told me we would win, and I will respond: 'Yes, I have been in touch with God'."

Iran has been working to strengthen the extremists throughout the region, who share their desire to hit America and Israel.