

SYRIA

REARMED FORCES MOVE CLOSER TO BORDER

Feb 22, 07. The Syrian armed forces are being strengthened in an unprecedented way in recent memory with the help of generous funding from Iran. The Syrians are bolstering their forces in all areas except the air force, which has been weak for some time. The main emphasis of the efforts has been missiles and long-range rockets to compensate for the weak air force.

The Syrian navy, after years of neglect, is also being reinforced with an Iranian version of a Chinese anti-ship missile, similar to the one used by Hizb'allah during the Lebanon war to strike an Israeli destroyer.

In addition to the overall strengthening of the armed forces in Syria, there has been a redeployment of forces along the front lines. It appears that the Syrians have moved forces closer to the border with Israel on the Golan Heights. - Ha-Aretz

OLMERT: "PREPARE FOR WAR WITH SYRIA"

Feb 26, 07. PM Ehud Olmert has ordered the IDF to actively prepare for war with Syria, despite buying into assessments that such a conflagration is unlikely this year. But Olmert attempted to veil his concern by claiming the order was just a precautionary measure.

Senior Israeli defence officials and politicians are trying their best to downplay talk of war with Syria in the coming year. But their words tend to ring hollow amid the contrary assessments and Olmert's order to the IDF to **prepare for war**.

There are however, conflicting assessments of the threat. Some Israeli defense officials point to Syria's rapid rearming and redeployments as a sign that conflict is on the horizon.

And last week, a senior military correspondent **suggested that war with Syria was almost a certainty**, citing Damascus' acquisition of new and improved missiles and air defences, and its hostile redeployment of forces near the Golan Heights.

NO WAR WITH SYRIA, UNLESS ...

IDF Military Intelligence chief Amos Yadlin told the cabinet that Damascus won't initiate a full-scale war with the Jewish state.

However, Yadlin did acknowledge that Israeli defensive moves deemed hostile by the Arab world, a harsh Israeli response to Syrian-backed "Palestinian" terror, or a renewal of hostilities with Hezbollah could all spark all-out war with Syria.

In fact, the likelihood of **all three** of those things happening in the next 12 months is **very high!**

IS Isaiah 17:1 ABOUT TO BE FULFILLED?

“The oracle concerning Damascus. Look! **Damascus is about to be removed from being a city, and it will become a heap of ruins.**” (Isaiah 17:1)

Certainly Israel’s past conflicts with Syria sparked similar speculation, but consider that in 1967 and 1973 the primary Syrian threat was from its large armored forces conducting a slow ground assault against the Galilee region.

Today, the primary Syrian threat is from its long-range missiles, which can kill huge numbers of Israelis in nearly every part of the country in a very short period of time. The natural response to Syria’s ground invasions of Israel was to push back their armor and slowly advance into Syrian territory. The natural response to a **chemical warhead** on Tel Aviv will be the utter **destruction of Damascus**.

We appear to be just one Hizb’allah rocket barrage or large *Islamic Jihad* suicide bombing away from that series of events unraveling before us. – Zionist.com

US SAYS ‘NO’ TO ISRAEL-SYRIA PEACE TALKS

Feb 23, 07. The US has demanded that Israel refrain from even exploratory contacts with Syria, of the sort that would test whether Damascus is serious in its declared intentions to hold peace talks with Israel. In meetings with Israeli officials, Condoleezza Rice was forceful in expressing Washington’s view on the matter. “Don’t even think about it,” she said.

The American argument is that even “exploratory talks” would be considered a prize in Damascus, whose policy and actions continue to undermine Lebanon’s sovereignty and the functioning of its government, while it also continues to stir unrest in Iraq, to the detriment of the US presence there. In particular:

- * Syria’s refusal to curb the flow of militants through its border into Iraq;
- * Syria’s role in undermining the Lebanese government;
- * Syria’s open alliance with Iran;
- * Syria’s facilitating of Hizb’allah’s rehabilitation.

While some of those points are also in line with Israeli interests, Damascus’ ongoing support for “Palestinian” terror groups was apparently not on the list of reasons to not talk to Syria. Source: Ha’aretz