

U.S. ARMY REPORT WARNS **AGAINST MIDEAST** **NUCLEAR 'DEATH BATH'**

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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.

WASHINGTON — A report published by the U.S. Army War College ruled out a U.S. military or diplomatic option to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Instead, the report, entitled "Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran," said the dismantling of Israel's purported nuclear weapons program could be the only way to prevent a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

The report, entitled "Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran," was edited by Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, and Patrick Clawson, deputy director at the Washington Institute.

"You have a whole neighborhood of folks posed, at any time, to go nuclear," Sokolski said. "A Middle East with yet more nuclear powers could turn into a big, big death bath."

The report envisioned a nuclear Iran seeking to dominate the Middle East and intimidating neighboring Europe. The scenarios included skyrocketing oil prices, the reduction of U.S. influence in the region and increased insurgency in Israel and Gulf Arab states.

The report financed by the Defense Department and said to have been based on leading U.S. experts in nuclear proliferation, Iran and the Middle East recommended that the United States encourage "Israel to set the pace of nuclear restraint in the region by freezing its large reactor at Dimona and calling on all other states that have large nuclear reactors to follow suit."

The report also called on Israel to agree to International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of the Dimona nuclear reactor, said to house the nuclear weapons program of the Jewish state.

Israel has never confirmed or denied reports that it possesses nuclear weapons. But the Jewish state has pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

In July 2004, IAEA director-general Mohammed El Baradei urged Israel to abandon nuclear weapons in proposed regional arms control negotiations. The United States

has not formally joined this call.

The report said the dismantling of Israel's nuclear weapons could lead to similar moves by other countries in the Middle East, including Algeria and Egypt. But the report envisioned that Iran would not halt its nuclear program and could achieve weapons capability in 2006.

As a first step, Israel was urged to announce the cessation of operations at Dimona. The report said Israel should then be prepared to dismantle Dimona and transfer nuclear material to the United States.

"It should make clear, however, that Israel will only take this additional step when at least two of three Middle Eastern nations -- Algeria, Egypt, or Iran -- follow Israel's lead by mothballing their own declared nuclear facilities that are capable of producing at least one bomb's worth of plutonium or highly enriched uranium in 1 to 3 years," the report said.

Under the proposal, all states in the Middle East would dismantle their large research and power reactors, hexafluoride, enrichment plants, and reprocessing capabilities. Pakistan and other nuclear weapons states must also agree not to redeploy nuclear weapons in the Middle East during peacetime.

"With a nuclear weapons option acting as a deterrent to the United States and allied action against it, Iran would likely lend greater support to terrorists operating against Israel, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Europe, and the United States," the report said.

The United States should work to contain and deter Iran from posing such threats, the report said. The report recommended increasing U.S.-GCC naval cooperation, constructing pipelines in the southern Gulf and isolating Iran.

"Would taking these steps eliminate the Iranian nuclear threat?" the report asked. "No. Given Iran's extensive nuclear know-how and capabilities, it is unlikely that the United States or its allies can deny Iran the technical ability to covertly make nuclear weapons."

The report warned that Iran could not be bribed or bombed into submission. Teheran could respond with a war against the United States, Israel and Arab allies.

"Any overt military attack would give Tehran a casus belli either to withdraw from the NPT, or to rally Islamic Jihadists to wage war against the United States and its allies more directly," the report said. "Whatever might be gained in technically delaying Iran's completion of having a bomb option would have to be weighed against what might be lost in Washington's long-term efforts to encourage more moderate Islamic rule in Iran and the Middle East."

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:

It is very clear that Iran's actions to acquire nuclear weapons, and their recent statements of "wiping Israel off of the map" are creating quite a stir in the rest of the world. Proposed solutions and speculation about what will happen abound, but can we know what the future of this debate will entail based on the prophetic scriptures

of the Bible? In a broad way, I think we can.

Isaiah 17:1-4 predicts,

The burden [prophecy] against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken; they will be for flocks which lie down, and no one will make them afraid. The fortress [military bases] also will cease from Ephraim [northern Israel], the kingdom from Damascus [Damascus will no longer be the capitol of a country], and the remnant of Syria; they will be as the glory of the children of Israel [possible saying the population of Syria will be reduced to that of Israel]," says the LORD of hosts. "In that day [not in "those" days, meaning this happens in one day] it shall come to pass that the glory of Jacob will wane, and the fatness of his flesh grow lean [Israel will be weakened as a nation and the remaining verses of Isaiah 17 further describe the destruction of this war].

It should be noted that Damascus has never ceased to be a city. It is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Therefore, this prophecy of 700 BC has yet to be fulfilled.

Although we cannot know for sure, it seems like these verses predict a war between Syria and Israel where Syria gets the worst of it but Israel is severely weakened. It also predicts that the cities of Aroer (could also be translated the cities of ruin based on the literal Hebrew meaning of Aroer – Brown-Drivers-Briggs Hebrew dictionary) will have animals coming in but people won't disturb them. Could this be because the posting of signs which read "radiation area, stay out" will be respected by people but not animals? I think so, and there is no verse in the Bible that makes this same kind of prediction. There has never been a time in history (before nuclear, chemical weapons) where a destroyed city would have animals enter it that were free from the threat of man.

Therefore, based on Biblical prophecy, it appears that current plans to de-nuke Israel and the Arabs will not be successful.

Some may wonder why the Bible predicts a confrontation between Israel and Syria rather than Israel and Iran (the current bad-boy on the block). The answer is two fold.

First, Iran has made it clear they have a mutual defense pact with Syria. If Iran's nuclear facilities are attacked, Iran has stated, "we (Syria and Iran) will teach Israel and the world a lesson that they will never forget." If these statements are more than rhetoric, then it is likely Syria is willing to launch its arsenal of missiles on Israel if Iran is attacked, and Iran will possibly activate their sleeper cells in the West to punish us for our support in the attack. If Syria does launch its thousands of missiles on Israel (some of which are reported to be tipped with chemical warheads), then it is easy to see how Isaiah 17 could be fulfilled literally.

Secondly, Iran (which is called Persia in the Hebrew scriptures of the Bible) cannot be reduced to a ruinous heap because they must fulfill another Bible prophecy pertaining to the last days. Ezekiel 38 and 39 predict that in the last days, after Israel becomes a nation again, that a massive force will come in an attempt to destroy her. Using modern names for the nations mentioned, this alliance of nations will include the southern republics of Russia, Iran, Libya, Ethiopia (including

Sudan) and Turkey. When these nations come together to invade and attempt to destroy Israel, the God of Israel instead destroys them. Therefore, Iran cannot experience an all-out nuclear attack that would decimate its population, because they play a role in this future attempt to invade and destroy Israel.

Based on these Biblical passages, many Christians are sensing an urgency pertaining to the days we are living. If the powers to be think they are going to de-nuke Israel, Iran and the rest of the middle-east in the near future, but the Bible predicts a conflict between Israel and Syria that appears to include weapons of mass destruction, then we must be close to seeing the fulfillment of this 2,700 year old prophecy rather than the hoped for peace plans.

If Iran does intend to teach America a lesson that they will not forget (possibly by massive terror attacks in America – including nuclear weapons) if Iran is attacked, then America could be experiencing the very last days of the prosperity and freedom we have known for decades and this could also explain why America is not mentioned in Biblical prophecy.

In these troubling days, the Christian takes great comfort in knowing that this is not our world (Philippians 3:20-21, Heb 11:14-16), and that the Lord Jesus told us that it would be like this in the days immediately preceding His second coming (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2 Timothy 3).

If you don't know Jesus, then I hope you will turn to the Savior while there is still time. Once we die, we are judged (Hebrews 9:27). If we have bowed the knee to Jesus, confessed that we are sinners deserving of hell, but appeal to His mercy and grace to cover over our sins with the blood that He shed on the cross, then we will be saved. However, if you reject Jesus as your savior, then you will die in your sin and be separated from Him forever in the Lake of Fire.

I pray you have, or will, choose life instead of death, because it appears that many millions are soon to face physical death and spiritual judgment as the world plunges toward a time the Bible calls the Great Tribulation.