

# International Intelligence

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## ***Mideast Water Crisis Will Worsen***

A Knesset (Parliament) inquiry into the water crisis in Israel handed in a 300-page report on May 28, whose recommendations were the transfer of responsibility for the nation's water to the Prime Minister's office, the establishment of an independent water authority, and the declaration of a state of water emergency for the next two years, that would limit the use of water. The report, which was one year in the making, states that in the coming three years, the water crisis will worsen, and that there could be a lack of potable water, which could have a wide-ranging impact on the economy.

According to the report, the crisis is the result of years of ignoring the mounting indicators, as well as tardiness in establishing alternative water resources. Without naming specific people, it charges that Treasury officials, among others, deliberately obstructed attempts to adapt the water infrastructure to the changing needs of the country, and that the Treasury transferred some 600 million shekels earmarked for water infrastructure, into other projects. One member said that he would seek an investigation of the Treasury by the Attorney General.

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## ***German Expert on Iraq Strike Plans***

Former Assistant German Defense Minister Lothar Rühl pointed to assessments by Turkish military figures, of a U.S. strike against Iraq. Rühl wrote in the Swiss financial daily, *Neue Zuercher Zeitung* on May 24, that the general staff of Turkey firmly expects an American strike against Baghdad. The Turks are concerned with its political consequences for the wider region.

A direct military participation of the Turkish military will not occur, but the Turks will not be able to resist U.S. demands for using airbases and airspace of Turkey for the operation. And, because there are well-founded fears that the situation in the Kurd-

ish regions of northern Iraq will get out of control, in the wake of such a military operation, the Turks would then have to intervene militarily, to prevent the creation of a Kurdish state there.

Rühl wrote that his Turkish sources do not expect a replay of the 1991 Desert Storm scenario; instead, they see the most likely mode of operation in a combination of surprise actions that aim at paralyzing the political and military command of Iraq, to completely disrupt the regime's functioning through the administrative structure, the security apparatus, the media, and the ruling Ba'ath party.

In particular, radio and TV will be paralyzed, as well as everything that is based on the supply of electricity. "Strategic control of space" and "information warfare" will be practiced on an in-depth scale. Political and technical chaos will result, and special forces with air support will try to knock out political and military command centers. The Turkish military thinks that pockets of resistance would continue to challenge the U.S. inside Iraq; another big question is the political consequences in neighboring Iran, which will affect Turkish-Iranian relations. Ankara does not like the idea of a war, but sees it as inevitable, Rühl wrote.

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## ***Archives of Jewish Terror, Circa 1947***

The Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on May 24 reported figures on Jewish terrorism in 1947 during the clashes between Jews and Arabs, as well as the British, who controlled Palestine under the Mandate. The figures are drawn from a report written as an internal State Department memo by Richard Parker, former Ambassador to Algeria, and Ned Walker, former ambassador to Egypt and Israel. The document writes of events between March 1 and Nov. 22, 1947.

Columnist Akiva Elder writes that retired U.S. diplomat Phil Wilcox commented, he was "struck by how much the role of the Jewish terrorists, principally from the Irgun (Etzel) and the Stern Gang (Lehi), sounded like Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for

the Liberation of Palestine, and how much the Zionist leadership sounded like Arafat, in its unwillingness to cooperate with the British in apprehending them."

The documentation begins on March 1, 1947, the day that the Irgun blew up the British officers' club in Jerusalem. Elder lists terrorist attacks, in a few months, mainly by these two organizations, but also by Hagannah: revenge hanging of British sergeants; British police killed defusing a Zionist bomb; an engineer killed in terror train-derrailing; killings of Arabs in bombings and shootings; the assassination of an Arab labor official; and numerous other bombings and shootings of Arab and British civilians and officers.

Between Nov. 30, 1947 and Jan. 10, 1948, 295 Arabs and 263 Jews were killed. That works out to 15 a day, in the prelude to the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

Stern Gang leader Yitzhak Shamir eventually became Prime Minister of Israel, and made Ariel Sharon his Defense Minister. It was the Stern Gang which holds the record for killing the greatest number of people in the history of Middle East terror attacks. The Stern Gang bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem on July 22, 1946 killed 91 people including Jews, Arabs and British.

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## ***NASA Finds Ice Oceans on Mars***

Oceans of ice were found by the Mars Observer Mission. According to Dr. David Whitehouse, BBC Online science editor, NASA was to make an announcement on May 30 that the mission has found evidence of vast quantities of water ice under the surface of the Martian South Pole. Their findings will also appear in "a major scientific journal."

The Mars Observer, now celebrating its first anniversary, was able to measure evidence of water ice in large areas located south of 60° south latitude, using two independent instruments: the gamma-ray spectrometer and the neutron spectrometer. According to BBC's sources, the ice crystals

are less than one meter below the Martian surface, and were the ice able to melt, it would be able to cover the planet with an ocean at least 500 meters deep.

According to the release, "Researchers were amazed at the strength of the signal of the ice. They had expected to take a year to gather enough evidence but managed to do so in just a few weeks." They "suspect the same to be true of the northern hemisphere, but cannot make the appropriate observations until later this year, due to the Martian Winter in the North."

This would go a long way to explaining the extensive geological evidence of water erosion, and other signs of vast amounts of water being present in the Martian past. It also gives further fuel to the burning question of whether life exists on Mars. Again according to Dr. Whitehouse, "Insiders suggest that, partly as a result of this finding, NASA may commit itself to a manned landing within 20 years."

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## ***WTO Will Spread Unemployment in China***

China's urban unemployment rate will rise 2% per year in the first four years of membership in the WTO, according to a just-released "green book" by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The report is called "China's Population and Labor Issues." Some 4 million city-dwellers each year will lose their jobs, the report says. But agriculture will be even harder hit: Up to 10 million farmers are expected to lose their jobs. Ultimately, however—10 years after joining the WTO!—2-3 million job "opportunities" would be created each year. The flood of foreign agricultural products and China's weak agricultural competitiveness, is the reason for the millions of "redundant" rural workers.

The report says that the effect of the "international market" on China, has "shattered to pieces the original pattern of employment in the former industries and trades," and this shattering will be greatest as China joins the WTO. The only benefits of WTO entry the report sees over the coming decade, is devel-

opment of labor-intensive, tertiary industries and small enterprises. But in the coming three to four years, WTO entry will break up China's employment pattern and sharply increase unemployment.

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## ***Cardoso: Renew Economic Infrastructure***

South America's economic integration and infrastructure development is the way to respond to U.S. and other protectionist moves, said Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso at the opening session of the Initiative for the Integration of South America's Regional Integration (IIRSA) conference, in Brasilia on May 26.

Contrasting with some of his earlier criticisms of U.S. protectionist tendencies, Cardoso told businessmen and representatives of 12 South American governments that "an intensification of interrelationships in our own region" best responds to the "uncertainties" of the world situation. Even more than regional trade agreements, which he described as "complex," Cardoso proposed "physical integration" to "take a leap forward, not backward. . . . We must advance among ourselves, if we are not able to move forward with the rest of the planet."

IIRSA was founded in August 2000, at the meeting of South American Presidents in Brasilia. Its discussion of independent development, exemplified by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's stunning speech, shook the Anglo-American oligarchy. Cardoso had proposed the group, to replicate Brazil's own "Avanza Brasil" infrastructure program in other Ibero-American countries. IIRSA study groups identified 123 projects in the fields of energy, telecommunications, and transportation, some of which are close to completion.

The IIRSA plan is based on a concept of creating "axes of development," taken from the Avanza Brasil program. The Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and the Plata Basin Financial Development Fund (Fonplata) work with IIRSA's program.

**INTER-KOREAN** talks will forge ahead. Despite efforts in Washington to say Pyongyang has killed the inter-Korean "Sunshine" talks, officials from the two Koreas are slated to meet June 11 at North Korea's Mount Kumgang to restart the large-scale visit of South Koreans to the famous mountain site. A Seoul Unification Ministry official said "overall South-North relations have not deteriorated and the resumption of dialogue looks to be positive."

**FROZEN BUDGETS** are set for more and more German states. Hesse, Saarland, and Thuringia—announced steps on May 28, because of drastically sinking tax revenues. Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, had already decreed budget freezes. Every single euro assigned for spending, will be up for review, before being authorized.

**CANDIDATES** for Afghanistan's *loya jirga* assembly have been killed. The UN says that eight candidates standing for election to June's *loya jirga* in Afghanistan have been killed over the past weeks.

**INDICTMENTS** were handed down in Israel on May 27 in a Jewish attempted terror bombing. Indicted was Noam Federman, one of the founders of the terror group Kach. The indictments are over an attempt to bomb a Palestinian girls' school and hospital in Jerusalem, and include earlier cases in which Federman was involved. Further indictments are expected against three more suspects.

**FAMINE** is sweeping southern Africa, surpassing the food emergency in Afghanistan, according to the UN World Food Program. The source of the famine is attributed to drought, economic crises, and, allegedly, to farmland redistribution in Zimbabwe.