

Only a strong U.S. President can stop Netanyahu's nuclear war madness

by Dean Andromidas

Almost one year ago, *EIR* published an assessment from the well-informed journal *Israel and Palestine*, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was preparing a new Middle East war by no later than the autumn of 1998 (*EIR*, Oct. 24, 1997). Maxim Ghilan, the publisher of *Israel and Palestine*, warned in his assessment, that Netanyahu was in the process of consolidating his grip over the Israeli military-security establishment, preparatory to his push for a new regional war. Ghilan emphasized that Netanyahu was fully intent on using the war as a pretext for launching tactical nuclear weapons against Arab targets.

One year later, Ghilan's warning has been largely borne out. Sources in Tel Aviv and Washington have confirmed to *EIR* that Netanyahu has, indeed, established a tighter grip over the command structure of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and the Israeli intelligence services, and is now seeking the first pretext for blowing up the Middle East, to pursue his mad vision of "Greater Israel."

Sources in Israel have warned in recent days that Netanyahu will use any new terrorist act, attributed to Hamas or Islamic Jihad, as the pretext for sending Israeli troops into Palestinian-controlled sections of the West Bank and Gaza. Such a provocation—virtually eliminating the Oslo Accords—would undoubtedly trigger waves of protest in the occupied territories, inside Israel, and throughout the Arab world. That, the sources say, is exactly what Netanyahu wants.

The same sources warn that an alternate scenario for triggering a new regional war, leading to a nuclear Armageddon, would be an assault upon the Al Aqsa Mosque, at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, by Jewish fanatics of the Temple Mount movement. As you will read in the chronology below, in recent months, the Netanyahu government has abandoned all pretext of curbing the Temple Mount Faithful and other fanatics of the Jewish underground—the very networks that assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and helped usher "Bibi" into power. Senior officials of the Netanyahu government have been given the green light to appear publicly at fundraising events and support rallies for the Temple Mount fanatics, who argue that the coming of the Messiah will only occur after the Third Temple of Jerusalem has been restored,

and the Muslim holy sites at the Temple Mount leveled.

It is no secret that two of Netanyahu's most powerful coalition allies, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Moledet Party head Rehavam Ze'evi, are advocates of the "Jordan is Palestine" doctrine, which calls for the mass expulsion of all Palestinians from the entirety of Judea and Samaria (i.e., Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza).

Finger on the nuclear trigger?

One year ago, *Israel and Palestine* warned that Netanyahu would move to purge the hierarchy of the military and intelligence organs of all opponents of his nuclear Armageddon lunacy. In the past months, Netanyahu has, indeed, succeeded in either installing his own people, or in isolating his opponents, particularly within the command structure that would have to give the okay to a use of nuclear weapons in a war with Israel's Arab neighbors.

In the spring of 1998, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz was named Chief of Staff of the IDF. Mofaz was the man identified by Ghilan last October, as Netanyahu's hand-picked choice to take over the military. Well known for his hawkish views, Mofaz was commander of the army division that, in February 1994, was responsible for the "security breach" allowing Baruch Goldstein, a fanatic from the West Bank settlers movement, to carry out a machine-gun assault on the mosque at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, which killed 50 worshippers. Goldstein was later hailed as a "hero" by the Temple Mount apparatus.

Under General Mofaz's command, updated plans have been prepared for a three-front war against Syria and Lebanon in the north, against Egypt in the south, and against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The latter would be a "low-intensity" war aimed at driving the entire Palestinian population across the river into Jordan.

Sources in Israel tell *EIR* that a whole new generation of Israeli military officers is now in place in critical command posts, who have no actual combat experience, but who are cultish followers of the Netanyahu "Greater Israel" outlook. Many were directly trained by the Temple Mount crazies, at a number of "military yeshivas" that have transformed the very nature of the IDF in recent years (see *EIR*, Aug. 28, 1998).



The Al Aqsa mosque, at the Dome of the Rock on Temple Mount in Jerusalem, is one of the most holy sites in Islam. Hard-liners of the Temple Mount Faithful and other Armageddonist sects of the Jewish and "Christian" evangelical stripe are committed to leveling the mosque to pave the way for the building of the Temple of Solomon, even if it means triggering an out-of-control religious war that will destroy the entire Middle East, and possibly trigger an otherwise unthinkable nuclear confrontation.

Inside the intelligence services, Netanyahu recently succeeded in forcing the resignation of Danny Yatom, a Shimon Peres appointee, as head of the Mossad, who was a staunch opponent of Netanyahu's policy of conducting insanely provocative kidnapping and assassination operations against Palestinian and other Arab targets. Although Yatom was replaced by an experienced Mossad officer who is not particularly close to Netanyahu, Ephraim Halevy, it has been already announced that Halevy will be stepping down in the next months, and will likely be replaced by his deputy, Gen. Amiram Levine, a close ally of Netanyahu. Levine had no background in Mossad, but was the former commander of the Northern Command of the IDF, in which capacity he staged a series of ill-conceived and wildly provocative commando raids into southern Lebanon.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is widely regarded as an opponent of Netanyahu's war schemes; however, he, too, is already a target of the Prime Minister's dirty tricks. Should he be driven out of the post, some Israeli sources fear that Netanyahu might even re-install Ariel Sharon as defense minister. Then, the chain of command for a full-scale regional war, complete with the launching of Israeli nuclear bombs, would be in place.

Institutional opposition paralyzed

Israeli sources have recently told *EIR* that they see Netanyahu as not only personally insane; they fear that he also is committed to an insane regional geopolitical dogma, one that

ignores the consequences of an Israeli nuclear strike against Arab neighbors.

What is worse, these sources report that the political institutions of Israel have been so weakened, since the assassination of Rabin in November 1995, that there is little internal capacity for resistance to the threat posed by Netanyahu's mad flight-forward.

These sources say that Netanyahu has skillfully destroyed both the anti-war left wing, and the sane elements inside his own Likud coalition, by covertly backing a string of mini-parties, who now hold the balance of power in the Knesset (parliament). Key Netanyahu cabinet aides, for example, were instrumental in the launching of the Russian party of Immigration Minister Natan Sharansky. This, combined with Netanyahu's personal embrace of the Temple Mount apparatus (he showed up early this summer at a fundraising event for the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, the brainwashing center for the new "priesthood" following the sacking of the Temple Mount), has turned much of Israeli politics into a mental ward.

Under these circumstances, it is no wonder that Netanyahu and his Christian evangelical allies in the United States and Britain, have placed the highest priority on destroying the Clinton Presidency. With the internal political morass in Israel, only a direct, strong intervention by the President of the United States can prevent the Netan-yahoos from launching their mad war drive—in the immediate days and weeks ahead.