

Are the Clashes in Beirut a Signal of the inception of a new War for the "New Middle East"?

By Rev. Richard Skaff Global Research, May 11, 2008

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Theme: <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>THE WAR ON LEBANON</u>

Is it possible that the US sponsored bloody "civil war" situation in Iraq could spread to other countries in the Middle East and Central Asia for the purpose of creating a new map for the whole region, that would behoove the economic needs of the super powers and the multinational corporations?

Are these countries going to be divided by religious denomination, ethnicity, the amount of wealth they possess, and their geographic location?

That is a big, bloody and profitable job for the Military Industrial Complex!

When is this highly anticipated war going to happen? Could it begin this summer and before the departure of this current US administration? Is it going to result in more economic woes for the American people and for the nations involved in the struggle? Are more liberties going to be lost in this process of staged on-going conflict? What should the herds do to stop the insanity?

Let's explore some of the latest news which might give us some clues to these difficult and ominous questions.

Naharnet.com reported today that fierce clashes with assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers raged in several Beirut districts shortly after Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah vowed to use weapons to defend his party's communications system. The Naharnet report added that Nasrallah, in a closed circuit press conference Thursday accused the government of launching war against Hezbollah, stressing that "this is a new era in which all red lines have collapsed." Shortly after his press conference was over, clashes broke out between Hezbollah members (Shiites) and Mustaqbal movement (Sunnis) supporters in Beirut Districts of Msaitbe, Ras Nabaa, Mazraa, and Basta. [1].

Ironically, Andrew Cockburn from counterpunch.org reported on May 2, 2008 that six weeks prior to May 2nd, president Bush signed a secret finding authorizing a covert offensive against the Iranian regime that, according to those familiar with its contents, unprecedented in its scope. [2].

Cockburn's report also revealed that Bush's secret directive covers actions across a huge geographic area from Lebanon to Afghanistan -but is also more sweeping in the type of actions permitted under its guidelines-up to and including the assassination of targeted officials. The report also elaborates that this widened scope clears the way for example, for full support for the military arm of Mujahedin-e Khalq, the cultish Iranian opposition group,

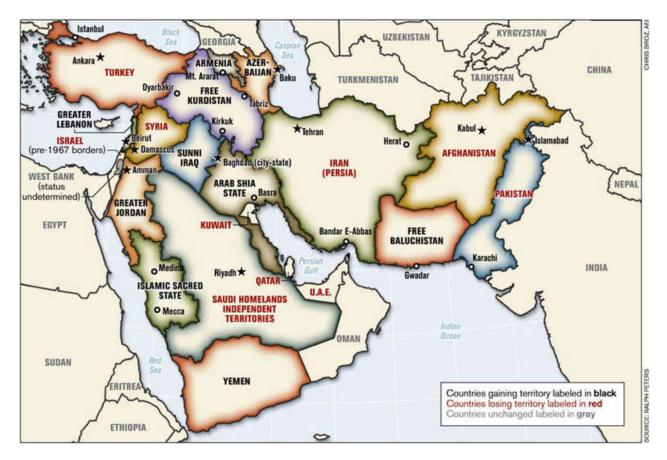
despite its enduring position on the State Department's list of terrorist groups. Similarly, covert funds can now flow without restriction to Jundullah, or "army of god," the militant Sunni group in Iranian Baluchistan-just across the Afghan border—whose leader was featured not long ago on Dan Rather reports cutting his brother in law's throat. Cockburn adds that other elements that will benefit from U.S. largesse and advice include Iranian Kurdish nationalists, as well as the Ahwazi Arabs of South West Iran . Further afield, operation against Iran 's Hezbollah's allies in Lebanon will be stepped up, along with efforts to destabilize the Syrian regime. In addition, the report edifies that all this costs money in turn must be authorized by Congress, or at least a by few witting members of the intelligence committees. That has not proved a problem. An initial outlay of \$300 million to finance implementation of the finding has been swiftly approved with bipartisan support, apparently regardless of the unpopularity of the current war and the perilous condition of the U.S. economy. [2].

So, here we are again, another directive, another war, another loss of liberty, and another step closer to become an impoverished society under siege ruled by the few. We must awaken from our deep slumber before it is too late. Ask the Lebanese people that seems to remain asleep, while they continue to be robbed from their dreams, their land, their dignity and liberty by political factions loyal to outside powers who purchase these loyalties with the dying greenbacks.

References:

- 1- Naharnet.com, May 8, 2008
- 2- Counterpunch.org, May2 2008. Secret Bsuh finding widens war on Iran,

Rev. Richard Skaff, is the author of "The Human Manifesto"



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