

IRAQ REVIEW

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The End of The regime is in sight as Saddam is cornered in Baghdad

OUR VIEW

All the signs and indications from inside Iraq are revealing the fact that the Saddam regime is collapsing and seems to be nearing its end. These signs include the fact that the regime is preventing Iraqi citizens from entering Baghdad yet allowing them to leave. Another sign is the withdrawal of Saddam's military forces from the north of Iraq. These forces were stationed along Arbil province and now they have retreated some 30 km southwards. At the same time Saddam has intensified his military presence around the city of Kirkuk and his combat aircraft continue to fly low sorties to the limit of the U.N. controlled areas.

On the other hand, his security apparatus is conducting a campaign of widescale arrests and detentions in many of the cities of middle and southern Iraq. In addition to this, the sudden and sharp rocketing of food prices which has resulted in at least a doubling the price of every commodity indicate that an abnormal atmosphere is surrounding Iraq and everyone is expecting an upturn in events leading to a change of government.

Dick Cheney, the U.S. defence minister's recent statements that he predicted Saddam's downfall in a few weeks time is another hopeful sign indicating the approaching end of the Saddam nightmare.

Our sources inside Iraq reveal that the American forces have blocked the main supply road between Jordan and Iraq following Saddam's remarks recently that he is ready to bear the economic sanctions for another 20 years. All the above indications lead to the conclusion that the Saddam regime is at its weakest as a result of its external and internal isolation. The Iraqi people are awaiting the day of liberation from the vicious clique of Saddam and that would be a memorable day in the history of Iraq. A day that will crystallize the maturity of the people and their experience in events and the unique, suffering through which this nation has gone, unparalleled in recent history, maybe with the exception of the Polpot regime in Cambodia.

Our wish and desire is the same as that of the Iraqi people, namely to end the tyrannical rule of Saddam and replace it with a government based on the wishes of the Iraqi people and one which would concentrate on implementing, freedom, reconstruction and democracy.

The mass popular uprising in Iraq against the Saddam regime last March revealed two facts. Firstly the ruthless nature and unparalleled terror of Saddam through the mass killing of innocent civilians that took place, many of whom were women and children. Secondly, that the uprising has given the Iraqi people hope for liberation as a result of the breaking down of fear barrier that used to exist in the hearts of the Iraqi people. After the re-activation of Saddam's killing machine through its security apparatus and party cells in Iraq which now seems to encompass all sections of Iraqi society, the tables are begging to turn on Saddam and his regime. Our sources from Iraq indicate that a daily occurrence since the uprising has been the execution of high ranking Bath party officials and members of the ruthless security apparatus and the dumping of the bodies in prominent streets in Baghdad for their colleagues to be reminded of the fate that awaits them if they do not desist from committing crimes against the Iraqi people. These operations are almost certainly thought to have been carried out by the resistance forces to Saddam's regime. This daily occurrence is sending shivers down the spines of prominent Bath regime officials and as a result these officials are beginning to establish some sort of links with the Iraqi people while at the same time maintaining their links with the Saddam regime. They are trying to establish a balanced stance between the people on the one hand and the regime on the other. This is the tragic dilemma for these people and they are trapped between the rock and the hard place. The simple reason being that they know that they are potential targets for the resistance forces of the opposition yet at the same time they are liable for severe punishment and death from Saddam if they do not show total loyalty to him.

The Saddam regime has begun to fear the people and this explains the regime's approach and a policy of appeasement for the various tribes of Iraq, realising the danger that they pose to him. He is also trying, as he tried before, to sow seeds of discord in the Kurdish opposition, by setting the leaders of the tribes against one another. In repeating such obvious and cheap tactics he runs the risk of this whole trick backfiring on him and indeed a case in point is the Sunni tribes of Jabour in Mousil who became aware to the latest of his devious trickery to try to divide them and have completely turned against him and are now in conflict with him.

Our sources inside Iraq confirm that Saddam has started a new campaign of terror in the southern part of the country with the main object of weakening the

NEWS

*** In Iraq Holy city Karbala: twelve thousand killed and three hundred and twenty tanks destroyed.**

Our sources from inside Iraq have revealed through a soldier that was in one of the divisions that took part in the recapture of Karbala after it had been under the control of the forces of the popular uprising, that 12,000 soldiers belonging to the Saddam regime were killed during the operation. He also revealed that over 320 tanks were counted as being destroyed by the resistance forces of the popular uprising.

*** Saddam's message to the governors of Iraq's provinces: If I go, you go.**

Leaked extracts of Saddam's meeting and speech to the governors of Iraq's provinces reveal that the first question that Saddam directs to the governors is : "who out of you is unable to act efficiently in his past? If there are any of you who think that you are not up to the standard you had better speak up now or else, if there is any disorder in any of the provinces I will cut up the governor of those provinces to pieces". Saddam goes on "your existence depends on my existence. So if I am ousted, you shall be cut up into ribbons by the people". To this speech the governors were dumbfounded and could only reply "yes sir, your wish is our command sir".

*** The Iraqi opposition to Saddam living in Kuwait faces the danger of being deported to the criminal Saddam regime.**

The French media gave a detailed report on the members of the Iraqi opposition still living in Kuwait last month. It reported that hundreds of Iraqi opponents to the Saddam regime live in a state of uncertainty since the liberation of

Kuwait, not being able to obtain residence permits in Kuwait and fearing that they might be deported to Iraq. One member of the opposition described how he went round the various embassies in Kuwait begging to be given refugee status in any country, only to be refused visas from all the countries for which he applied. He also said that it was very unlikely for the Kuwaiti government to grant them residence permits and that if they were to be deported to Iraq they would face certain death.

*** The dictatorship regime in Iraq increases military operations against the refugees who fled to the marshes of southern Iraq.**

Information that has reached us from southern Iraq say that Saddam's forces that surround the main marshland that form a part of Al-Basra, Al-Amara, Al-Nassiria provinces have imposed a severe blockade on the area with the aim of preventing any food and material supplies from reaching the besieged refugees nor allowing anyone to leave the area, especially in the areas of Al-Chibayish and al-Shaheen. Reports also speak of combat aircraft of the Saddam regime and helicopter gunships making raids on the residential areas of the Marshes on 9th October 1991, resulting in the killing and injury of many civilians while others were forced to give themselves up and face immediate arrests or flee to the Iranian border.

Despite the humble resources that the refugees had, they tried as best as they could to defend themselves and were able to kill many of the attackers. In addition to this, the resistance forces in the marshes managed to shoot down a helicopter gunship, which resulted in the retreat of the attacking forces and failure of the attack to achieve major gains.

Cont. From "Saddam"

widespread revolt and discontent. He has re-inforced his control on the highways between Hila and Basra in the south with 17 military check points. Our sources also indicate that the regime's clique have begun a widescale defensive operation which includes digging tunnels and shelters for tanks around the capital Baghdad and erecting barriers around the roads leading to Baghdad in an attempt to control traffic in the capital. There has been an intensification in searches for those entering and leaving the capital. Even inside Baghdad which is Saddam's last bastion, his forces are in conflict. Our sources say that Saddam has withdrawn his forces from the North of Iraq to Baghdad following the out break of fighting between units of the army and the Republican Guards.

These points reflects the weakness of the Saddam regime and a courageous attempt by the opposition to influence and eventually control events in Baghdad. At the same time, the regime is applying considerable pressure

against the Kurdish opposition in Iraqi Kurdistan which is in control of most of its land. Again sources inside Iraq indicate that the regime has in the last week or so, cut off petrol and gas to Iraqi Kurdistan in addition to halting food supplies and wages to the state employees.

Recent circumstances have therefore lead to a reversal of many events. In the past, people used to be fearful of Saddam whereas, now the regime despite its military capability, is afraid of the people and that explains why Saddam is trying to appease some sections of Iraqi society. Our nation, from the furthest point in the North, to the most southern point have said their final word, that there is no place for Saddam in Iraq's tomorrow. Despite the rivers of blood which have continued to flow ever since the Baath party come to power and the increase in brutality by the regime, the peoples revolt and discontent has not died down but on the contrary is on the ascent, waiting for the right moment to finish off this regime for good.