



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Iraq's Saddam Revisited

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

As we Americans watch the Middle East, we wonder whether we should go to war with Iraq now, or wait. Because we are neither Europeans nor Asians, it is difficult for us to attack anyone, until he attacks us.

Khidhir Hamza gives us critical information in his book entitled "Saddam's Bombmaker."

The bottom line of the book?

The sands of Iraq are saturated with the blood of its people, and Saddam has arranged that it flow in the most horrifying way possible. That is how he keeps control.

Secondly, he WILL get and use nuclear weapons.

About Iraq in general Hamza says, "... in the Arab world, men have authority and women don't. Without my presence, doctors and nurses wouldn't hesitate to stick her (his wife) with a used syringe. The complaints of females were generally ignored. After all, they were only women ... Arab medicine's disrespect for women extended even to the sacred act of childbirth. Without a man at bedside to insist on proper treatment, our women were pretty much on their own."

His own mother had died from complications of the birth of her 14th child. Nine of the children also died.

American Type Culture Collection, based in the Washington, D.C. area, shipped various strains of toxins and bacteria to Iraq, ostensibly for research purposes.

But Saddam's best friend in the chemical and biological warfare business was Germany. They sold him a "pesticide plant," then turned it into a chemical weapons facility.

Saddam hates Shiites.

At first he deported them to Iran, then realizing he was swelling the ranks of Iran's army, he began using Shiite men as mine detectors. They were marched through Iraqi mine fields ahead of the Iraqi army.

Next, he used them to test chemical and biological weapons, protective devices and vaccines. He started by injecting Shiite prisoners with poisons. After several days, they became ill and died of flu-like symptoms.

Iraq was buying high-tech air filters by 1984, a

necessity when gassing both Iranians and Iraqis.

In 1984, approximately 100 prisoners were taken to Samara and gassed. All died.

In 1985, approximately 50 prisoners were used for biological experiments. They too died.

Next, prisoners were shipped to Iraqi Kurdistan and gassed. It was done experimentally, using varying agents and doses to see what worked. Several hundred men died.

They also kill to suppress rebellion.

In 1987, they put typhoid spores in wells used by Kurdish villagers. Many hundreds died.

They gassed Kurdish villages in the Balasan Valley. Anyone who tried to escape to Arbil was shot.

March 17, 1988, in the town of Halabjah, 40,000 residents were gassed with tabun, sarin and soman. A weeping Iraqi doctor said, "It was the worst day of my life. I never saw so much death and suffering, and for absolutely no reason. At least 5,000 were killed ... The village's soil will be contaminated for years."

The official inspector threatened, "anybody who talked about what happened at Halabjah would be shot."

Saddam has a \$3 billion, nuclear bomb-proof bunker for himself. He and his henchmen live in opulent quarters and eat anything they desire, while "outside in the city, poor Iraqis were struggling to find fresh milk for their babies."

Saddam likes to torture his victims personally, before he has them shot. He makes officials execute colleagues by the hundreds, because he enjoys the agony of both the murdered and the murderers.

In 1993 and '94, there were more than 12,000 people working to give Saddam his nuclear bomb, including Russian scientists.

Will he get it?

Will he use it?

Oh, yeah. The only question is how soon.