



Straight Talk The Rest of the World is Expendable to Saddam

by Muriel Sluyter

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Greetings, Gentle Reader,

Let us address the lifestyle Saddam Hussein imposes on Iraqis.

Khidhir Hamza, in his book, "Saddam's Bombmaker," says Hussein has created his own reality. He cannot understand that other nations and peoples don't inhabit that world. Therefore, his behavior is completely irrational to outsiders.

Saddam was outraged that other Persian Gulf states demanded he repay the \$40 billion (that's with a B) they loaned him to prosecute his war against Iran. They too, had been afraid of hated Iranian Shiites, but once Saddam attacked Iran with chemical weapons, they were no longer in danger. Now, they wanted their money back.

Iraq was flat broke, but other Gulf states, especially Kuwait, were pumping oil beyond their OPEC quotas, forcing the price down, making it hard for Iraq to recover from the war.

And now, adding insult to injury, they demanded a cool \$40 billion. How dare they.

Saddam was particularly enraged with Kuwait, so they were first in his sights.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and other U.S. officials labeled Iraq the primary threat in the region, so Saddam called in April Glaspie, U.S. ambassador, and checked out America's official stance. She informed him the U.S. had no opinion on Arab conflicts. He promptly labeled Kuwait a breakaway province of Iraq and, within days, sent his divisions rolling toward them.

Iraq plundered its victim, blowing safes and taking cash and gold in vast quantities. They took everything that was movable, including an IBM mainframe computer, but since the troops didn't really know anything about it, they pushed it off the truck when it arrived in Iraq, breaking it into pieces.

Saddam threatened to "burn half of Israel." By the time of the Gulf War, he had a nuclear bomb of sorts. It was supposed to be mounted on a missile to be shot at Israel, but it was too big.

The best they could do was drop it from an airplane.

Unfortunately, they knew that any Iraqi plane would be shot down by Israel's air defenses.

So, not only would they not be able to use their lone nuclear device to annihilate Israel; if they tried it, the retaliation it would engender would wipe them out.

America had successfully persuaded Israel not to retaliate when Iraq attacked them with missiles, which they knew it would do, but a nuclear bomb would be a different matter. The chance the Israelis would sit quietly by during a nuclear attack, with their hands folded, was nonexistent.

James Baker warned there would be a "full and complete retaliation," in the event of a nuclear attack. So, instead, Saddam ordered his minions to bury chemical and biological weapons in southern Iraq.

He reasoned that the U.S. would blow up the bunkers, releasing invisible gas into the wind, which would carry it to Allied troops. The towns of Basra, Nasiriyah, Simawa, Diwaniya and Hilla were chosen as sites, guaranteeing their inhabitants' destruction from the gas, but that was OK. They were Shiites, so who cared?

Not Saddam.

He moved his missile batteries into Baghdad's residential neighborhoods, assuring that civilians would be fired upon during Allied retaliation.

The Iraqi officials were confident our troops would surrender to their army.

"These guys have no stomach for a land war. They'll surrender to our forces and we'll have them paraded by the thousands in the streets of Baghdad." Hamza, who spent years in America, says dissent was pointless.

His hope was that our precision-guided bombs would keep civilian casualties to a minimum, while Saddam only wanted to survive.

Saddam still wants to survive. Iraqis are expendable: Indeed, the rest of the world is expendable, including us.