

Hindsight and Foresight

How likely is this conflict to spread?

Winston Churchill made a telling point when he said, 'An appeaser is like someone who feeds a crocodile, hoping that it will eat him last.'

Churchill subsequently described the Second World War, in which fifty million people lost their lives, as having been entirely unnecessary. If the democratic countries had had the courage to withstand Hitler in the early days, it need never have happened. Does this have something to say about our own times?

Hindsight is a wonderful thing – but foresight is essential. Remember, it was Churchill who fought and pleaded, at all times almost single-handedly, for the RAF to be maintained as a fighting outfit, during the disarmament and appeasement years of the 1930's. Politicians around him were lampooning him constantly for being out of touch with the 'realities' of the situation – which, from their blinkered standpoint, meant believing Germany's promise not to develop an Air Force!

Those who had read *Mein Kampf* should have been warned – but most failed to believe that Hitler would set out to do what he had promised to do. In the same way, why should we doubt that the new Iranian president, Hamas and Hezbollah mean what they say? We have been warned.

- A UN Resolution specifically demanded that Hezbollah disarm, leaving the Lebanese to police the southern region. This has manifestly not happened. **Sayed Nasrallah**, the leader of Hezbollah speaks of bigger surprises ahead for Israel. He speaks of it being the last struggle of the 'umma,' - the Arab homeland. The trouble is, as Robert Fisk explained in *The Independent*, (17/7/06) Arab leaders said as much when they joined Lawrence of Arabia in the battle against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. 'It is always the "last struggle."'

Syria is undoubtedly supplying the weapons, and is the immediate power behind Hezbollah, even as Iran is its 'spiritual guide.'

David Dolan writes

The prospects that Syria and/or Iran might become directly involved in the raging Israel-Hezbollah conflict seemed to grow as the fighting continued into a third week. This was especially the case after Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Seniora called for regional Muslim powers to "stand united with Lebanon in the face of the Israeli war criminals." His virtual war cry came in the wake of the July 30th civilian deaths in Qana, which sparked rage throughout Lebanon and the entire Muslim world. The fuming Lebanese Sunni Muslim leader charged that Israel

had “deliberately massacred our innocent martyrs” before hailing Sheik Nasrallah as a great Lebanese patriot.

...Israeli analysts had been warning well before the civilian slayings in Qana that Hassan Nasrallah was attempting to draw Syria directly into the conflict. With many leaders around the world criticizing him for launching his unprovoked cross border raid more than six years after IDF forces left south Lebanon, the Shiite Sheik was said to be hoping that his Syrian Alawite patrons would open up a second war front on the Golan Heights, which the world unanimously considers occupied Syrian territory.

Street pressure on regional Muslim leaders to “do something” to thwart the Israeli campaign in Lebanon seemed to grow precipitously both inside Syria and around the Middle East in the wake of the Qana tragedy. Possibly indicating that he is considering direct intervention, Syrian dictator Bashar Assad strongly condemned the Israeli action as “state terrorism.” Israeli security analysts said that the mullahs who run Iran have been putting pressure on their Syrian ally to jump into the fray.

With . . . most Lebanese leaders now at least publicly backing the radical Shiite cleric who has kidnapped their country, it does appear that an even more intense war in the Middle East may be on the horizon. It is good to recall the many promises of ultimate victory over evil that the God of Israel long ago issued to His Chosen People, which caused King David to proclaim his full confidence in His powerful heavenly Father: *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident.”* (Psalm 27:1-3).