

South News

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Libya – George Bush's Next Target

On January 21, 1992, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 731 formally arrogating to itself the right to overturn international law under the pretext of combating terrorism, in this case relating to alleged Libyan responsibility for downing a Pan Am jet over Scotland in December 1988. This resolution has made even the concept of national sovereignty "simply irrelevant" in the words of British Ambassador David Hanney. The resolution, the Libyan UN delegate concluded, "contradicts the established principles and fundamentals not only in my country but also in the constitutions in different countries of the world."

The United States, Britain and France, which sponsored the resolution, have warned that if Libya refuses to cooperate, they reserve the right to ask the Security Council to impose an economic and air blockade on Libya. They have not ruled out military action against the Libyan people.

On March 13 the Stockholm evening newspaper Aftonbladet, revealed that the United States plans to bomb factories in Libya. The Thai, South Korean and Philippine governments have been asked to evacuate their citizens in Libya. According to the paper ten thousand Thai workers are employed in Libya, in the areas of boat and factory construction. The numbers of South Korean and Philippine workers in Libya are not known to their respective governments, but the Libyan authorities have estimated them at 120,000.

These latest threats against the people of Libya come just one month after a senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation investigation into the Lockerbie affair concluded that "Libya is innocent and is not implicated" in the bombing of the Pan Am jet. According to a report in the French daily Le Monde chief PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif declared that the PLO has compiled "a detailed list of names of persons directly implicated in putting the operation into effect and executing it." He said the PLO would be "ready to cooperate" with any competent commission of investigation into Lockerbie, to "prove the truth" of what occurred.

Also in February the Libyan High Court Judge Assawi ruled that there was no reason to bring charges at present against the two Libyans indicted over the Lockerbie affair, and that they would not be extradited. He charged that what the British and Americans were demanding was legally impossible, and represented an "interference in the Libyan judicial process." Assawi further accused the British and Americans of withholding crucial evidence from the Libyan authorities, and of trying to act simultaneously as prosecutor and as judge. He asked why Libya alone was being concentrated upon, when other countries were previously named as central to the Lockerbie investigation. Libya, said Assawi, was being made a "scapegoat" in this affair.

In a commentary on February 18, Germany's Deutsche Welle radio said that the British and American demands were historically unprecedented, since there has never been a case when a country has been ordered to extradite its own citizens. Britain and the USA, with the support of France, are using the UN Security Council to legitimise their plan to do to the Libyan people what was done to Iraq. As part of their preparations for a total economic blockade of Libya in conjunction with possible military action, the Western media has unleashed a barrage of disinformation.

US squeezes Iraq

LONDON — The US stepped up its pressure on Saddam Hussein and moved its carrier *America* into position in the Gulf within striking range of targets across Iraq.

Details also emerged of a CIA operation to undermine Iraq's economy by flooding the country with counterfeit banknotes.

Pentagon planners preparing for punitive strikes against military sites are receiving intelligence reports from UN inspectors in Iraq.

But President Bush's

Navy moves closer

main concern will be that any military action is in line with UN resolutions on the destruction of Iraq's nuclear and missile arsenal.

The UN's main concern is the al-Atheer nuclear research complex near Baghdad, which was discovered by UN teams after the war.

Two more nuclear production sites were detected at al-Tarmiya, just north of Baghdad, and al-Sharqat in northern Iraq.

A massacre could re-

verse the support of regional allies and backfire on the US presidential election campaign.

With the US and its main Gulf ally, Britain, ruling out large-scale military intervention, attention is focused on aircraft or cruise missile strikes against precise targets.

The CIA has been systematically swamping Iraq with forged dinars.

Operation Maseraagh (laundry) involves spread-

ing two low denomination notes that circulate widely and easily among traders.

CIA sources said the notes were smuggled in via Jordan, Iran and Turkey.

But it is believed the Iraqi Government is considering printing new notes to replace the affected denominations.

The counterfeiting began when the CIA realised that Iraq was dependent on foreign sources for printing its currency and that it had become vulnerable since millions of banknotes printed in Britain could not be delivered because of UN economic sanctions.

ARAB SOLIDARITY TOUR



JULY 92

South Movement Annual General Meeting Wednesday
March 25th, 1-2pm, Union Room 4

Ancient treasures 'pillaged'

BAGDAD — Iraq has appealed for international help to recover about 4000 archaeological treasures looted during the March 1991 anti-government revolt that followed the Gulf War.

Mr Muayad Saeed, director of Iraq's antiquities department, said seven of Iraq's 14 main museums had been totally pillaged or destroyed when Kurds and Shi'ites rebelled.

US soldiers have been accused of pillaging, notably in the south. Allied forces were accused of bombing archaeological sites in the Sumerian town of Ur, which is 4500 years old, and famous for its ziggurat, a pyramid-like tower with a temple on top.

A copy of the stele of King Hammurabi, who lived between 1792 and 1750 BC, a chariot of King Assur-Nasirpal (883 BC) and a statue of Venus are among the valuables missing from Zi Qar and Nasiriya museums.

The temple of King Nebuchadnezzar (604-602 BC) in Babylon is among ancient sites that have been devastated.

Iraq has protested to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

- AFP