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## Will Israel provoke a cataclysm?

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, with a majority in the Knesset but a large minority among his fellow citizens, is threatening to attack Lebanon. If this operation is launched, the Israeli army will not be able to defeat Hezbollah on its own. To save the Hebrew state, the United States will be forced to intervene, but rather than participate directly in a horrific war, it will support a military coup in Tel Aviv.

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The Israeli Chief of Staff, General Herzi Halevi, met with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan. In application of the

agreements signed with them, he informed them that Israel would attack Lebanon on the evening of Saturday June 22.

News of this secret meeting spread rapidly across the web. Various official sources confirmed it. We also learned that an agreement had been reached between Tel Aviv and Riyadh. This information explains why Saudi Arabia, alongside the Western alliance, was involved in protecting Israel during the Iranian retaliation on April 14.

Throughout the days of Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd, chancelleries around the world were buzzing with contradictory information and statements. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has declared that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can never be resolved by force of arms. "The peoples of the region and of the world cannot allow Lebanon to become a new Gaza (...) On both sides of the Blue Line, many lives have already been lost, tens of thousands of people have been displaced, and homes and buildings have been destroyed (...) Unexploded ordnance (...) poses an additional threat to the inhabitants of Israel and Lebanon, as well as to UN and humanitarian personnel (...) It is time for the parties to engage in a practical and pragmatic way in the diplomatic and political channels open to them", he told a press conference.

But Israel refuses to negotiate, and Hezbollah, refusing to abandon the Palestinians, has declared that it will not negotiate the demarcation of the Israeli-Lebanese border as long as the massacre in the Gaza Strip continues.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz replied to Guterres: "Israel cannot allow the terrorist organization Hezbollah to continue attacking its territory and its citizens, and we will soon take the necessary decisions. The free world must stand unconditionally by Israel in its war against the axis of evil led by Iran and extremist Islam. Our war is also your war, and Nasrallah's threat against Cyprus is just the beginning. [1]. He announced that he would "soon take the necessary decisions" on the matter.

Meanwhile, the two sides stepped up their skirmishes.

Israel fired shells at Yaroun (Bint Jbeil caza) and Naqoura (Tyre). It also hit an area between Taybé and Deir Seriane (Marjeyoun) with white phosphorus weapons, setting off a fire in the area. In the evening, two consecutive attacks hit the locality of Kham, in the same caza. Israeli aircraft also carried out an attack in the Kandouli district of Meiss el-Jabal.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for at least four attacks during the day. It targeted the maritime military site of Ras Naqoura (which corresponds to the Israeli site of Rosh Hanikra, opposite Naqoura) "using several suicide drones, in response to an Israeli strike in Deir Kifa (caza of Tyre)" on Thursday, which killed a Hezbollah fighter. He claimed "to have destroyed

part of the site and wounded several people". It also launched another suicide drone attack on "an Israeli artillery base" in Za'oura, northern Israel, and carried out attacks on the Israeli sites of Rouaissat el-Qarn and Zebdine, located in the disputed Shebaa farms, as well as on Sammaka, in the Kfarchouba hills.

The United States, which since January 29 has been advising its citizens not to travel to Lebanon for fear of kidnappings [2], remained silent, while the Iranian mission to the UN tweeted: "Any imprudent decision by the Israeli occupation regime to save itself could plunge the region into a new war, the consequence of which would be the destruction of Lebanon's infrastructure as well as that of the territories occupied in 1948. There can be no doubt that this war will have one big loser: the Zionist regime. The Lebanese Resistance Movement, Hezbollah, has the capacity to defend itself and Lebanon - perhaps the moment has come for the self-annihilation of this illegitimate regime" [3].

Indeed, the balance of military power has shifted considerably since the Israeli-Lebanese war of 2006 [4]. Back then, Hezbollah had little experience. Today, on the contrary, it has lived through 12 years of war in Syria against jihadists armed by NATO and protected by the Israeli Air Force [5]. Today, it is said to have 2,500 Special Forces (Radwan), 20,000 highly-trained men, 30,000 reservists and 50,000 less-experienced fighters. It used to have short-range missiles. Today, it has 120,000 projectiles of all kinds, including 150,000 guided missiles, several thousand Zelzal ("earthquake"), with a range of over 120 kilometers, and several hundred Fateh-110 ("Liberation-110") guided missiles [6], with a range of 300 kilometers, and still tens of thousands of short-range missiles such as the Iranian-made Fajr-1 and the Chinese-made Type-107. This gigantic arsenal should enable it to saturate the Iron Dome and thus deprive Israel of its anti-aircraft defense [7]. If it fails to saturate it, Hezbollah has already demonstrated since December 2023 that it can destroy elements of the Iron Dome, rendering it inoperative. Above all, it has Sayyad-2 (Fighter-2) surface-to-air missiles and possibly Russian SA-22 Pantsir batteries [8], with the former of which, on May 20, it put an end to 76 years of Israeli air domination. While it is not certain that Hezbollah can shoot down aircraft at high altitude, it is clear that it can destroy helicopters and aircraft at low altitude. In addition, Hezbollah has acquired all kinds of drones, including al-Hodhod ("Wavy Oyster"), which infiltrated Haifa and filmed the naval base and the RAFAEL (Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd) arms factory, undetected by Israeli radars. And that's not all: it now has Russian AT-14 Kornet and Iranian Toophan anti-tank missiles, as well as heavy armor such as Russian-made T-72 tanks. It also possesses ground-to-sea missiles, such as the Russian Yakhont.

There can be no doubt that if Hezbollah were to confront Israel alone, without US intervention, it would destroy the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in a matter of days. We don't know what would happen if the Pentagon came to the rescue of its historic ally.

In this perspective, opposition to the Israeli occupation, which is growing particularly among young American voters, is a challenge. To be re-elected, President Biden must abandon Israel. But abandonment means the disappearance of the Hebrew state. On the contrary, the entry of the US armada into the war would also provoke that of Iran. But since April 14, we have known that Teheran has hypersonic missiles, probably of Russian origin, which the West as a whole is incapable of intercepting [

Anyone who knows there isn't and says there is, is lying!" [11]. They are ready.

The White House's decision is unknown, but the State Department's top official on the subject, Andrew P. Miller, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Israeli-Palestinian Affairs, resigned on June 22. The State Department claims it was for personal reasons, but everyone knows that he was opposed to President Joe Biden's Bear-Hug strategy [12]. He had implemented sanctions against Jewish supremacists.

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Translation

Roger Lagassé

[1] ישראל כ"ץ Israel Katz, X, 22 juin 2024.

[2] «Lebanon Travel Advisory», US State Department, January 29, 2024.

[3] I.R.IRAN Mission to UN, NY, X, 22 juin 2024.

[4] L'Effroyable imposture 2, Thierry Meyssan, Éditions Alphée.

[5] “Before Our Very Eyes, Fake Wars and Big Lies: From 9/11 to Donald Trump”, Thierry Meyssan, Progressive Press (2019).

[6] “Syria has reportedly delivered Fateh 110 missiles to Hezbollah”, *Voltaire Network*, 15 February 2010.

[7] «US concerned Israel's Iron Dome could be overwhelmed in war with Hezbollah, officials say», Natasha Bertrand Alex, Marquardt Kylie Atwood & Jennifer Hansler, *CNN*, June 20, 2024.

[8] «US intel suggests Syria's Assad agreed to send Russian missile system to Hezbollah with Wagner group help», Natasha Bertrand, Zachary Cohen & Katie Bo Lillis, *CNN*, November 2, 2023. «Russia's Wagner Group Plans to Send Air Defenses to Hezbollah, U.S. Says», Michael R. Gordon, *Wall Street Journal*, November 2, 2023.

[9] "[Iran's hypersonic missiles establish deterrence through terror, says Scott Ritter](#)", by Alfredo Jalife-Rahme , Translation Maria Poumier, *La Jornada* (Mexico) , *Voltaire Network*, April 21, 2024. "[Thierry Meyssan reveals the underside of Iranian-Israeli relations](#)". *Le Courrier des stratèges*, *Youtube*. Note an error in this video: the author indicates that Syria opposed the Western war in Iraq.

[10] "[Israel is now just a paper tiger](#)", by Thierry Meyssan, Translation Pete Kimberley, *Voltaire Network*, 11 December 2012.

[11] «[Les officiers de réserve à Gaza en colère : donner des ordres clairs pour occuper Rafah, sinon, tout doit être terminée](#)», *Infos Israël news*, 5 juin 2024.

[12] «[State Dept. expert on Israeli-Palestinian affairs resigns amid Gaza crisis](#)», John Hudson, *The Washington Post*, June 21, 2024.