

Bruce Moran Says Striking Syria Can Ignite Worldwide Attacks By Terrorists And Extremists Against The United States and Israel. September 8, 2013

(Nine Major Points To Consider When Striking Syria)

1) NO CLEAR GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS – PANDORA’S TERRORISM BOX:

The American public is not for any new military interventions that are not in the direct National Security Interests of the United States. Human rights violations and atrocities are happening every day around the world. The costs have been heavy in losing our precious blood and supporting extended efforts in overseas operations especially if the U.S. Military engages in the Syrian Civil War where there are no clear good guys and bad guys. A Pandora’s box of terrorism (a new wave of terror attacks) has been seen with the Arab spring. Over the last 2 1/2 years, terrorists have broken out of prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Pakistan. Would not a Syrian attack solidify radical Moslem support bringing together divergent groups of extremists, terrorists and Al-Qaeda types from all around the world? Prove how it would not.

U.S. MILITARY OVEREXTENDED: The U.S. military/veteran families have been heavily put upon by extended deployments, greater physical disabilities (IED’s), PTSD (unseen wounds) and suicides (22 a day). These great military/veteran personal and economic hardships have been further exacerbated by these distressed recessionary times. There are many unseen consequences by attacking Syria where terrorist groups can virally erupt around the world, including within our homeland, the United States, further stretching our military operations out and putting military personnel under further duress. What ultimate National Security good comes from striking Syria unknowingly putting our U.S. troops indirectly or

directly in harms way?

2) AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAINST SYRIA INTERVENTION / AL-QAEDA POWER/INFLUENCE IN REBEL GROUPS: The American people are overwhelmingly against attacking Syria. Only 9 percent of Americans feel President Obama should act even if Syria's government used deadly chemicals to attack civilians. Has there been more than one Sarin gas attack? What if both sides (Assad Regime & Rebels) used chemical weapons during the last year? Who do we attack and support? Is the U.S. going to be the air force for Al-Qaeda in Syria? Prove to us Al-Qaeda as rebels are not on the ground fighting against the Assad regime causing human rights violations? Is not Al-Qaeda the major enemy and threat to the United States? What if Al-Qaeda gets the better hand in overthrowing the Assad regime?

3) ARAB SPRING DRASTICALLY CHANGED TERRORISM DYNAMIC: After the Arab spring in Egypt, the United States was quick to send Egypt money via President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to the Moslem Brotherhood who have been ousted by an unexpected military coup leaving 500 Egyptians dead and 4,200 wounded. The Arab spring drastically changed the terrorism dynamic in the Middle East and around the world. Likewise, Benghazi has left us with many unanswered questions in how our military operations and diplomatic security are not able to handle a terrorist attack in North Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere.

(See <http://www.govexec.com/defense/2013/09/internal-benghazi-report-details-stat>) Is not the Moslem brotherhood the same group of individuals who assassinated the former President of Egypt, Anwar Sadat? Furthermore, is the United States fully prepared to counter and neutralize attacks by Syrians, Syrian sympathizers and terrorists/extremists on our embassies, consulates and the United States homeland?

4) WAR POWERS ACT (1941) DILEMMA: The Obama administration has not gotten approval to go to war with Syria from Congress as the U.S. Constitution requires. Should the War Powers Act which undermines the balance of three powers (President/Congress/Supreme Court) as provided for in the United States Constitution be revisited as to what real purpose it serves in times like these? Why isn't the American public polled as to President Obama's use of the War Powers Act? How should and should not President Obama use the War Powers Act? Are conducting air strikes in a sovereign country like Syria not an act of war which needs approval from Congress (Article I, Section 8)? Is attacking Syria a national emergency created by attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or its armed forces?

5) WHY SHOULD THE UNITED STATES BASICALLY GO IT ALONE? WHAT DOES THE U.N. CHARTER SAY?: Why has the President Obama not gone before the United Nations to argue his case? Why has not President Obama called a special meeting of the U.N. Security Council to have the opinions of the UN Security Council aired around the world? Does the American Public not need to hear the opinions of other countries as to what type of intervention should and should not be taken? Should we rely solely on President Obama's decision making process as we take into account the volatile conditions that currently exists with worldwide terrorism, especially in the Middle East and North/Central Africa? Should this Syrian effort not be a collective effort by the United Nations or the UN Security Council? Why not? Is President Obama rushing "way to fast" to strike Syria without proper and fitting guidance and "directional finding" from world leaders?

According to the Charter of the United Nations: No State or group of

States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the State or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are in violation of international law.

6) PRESIDENT PUTIN WITH THE RUSSIAN MILITARY COUNTER CHECKING THE UNITED STATES MAY NOT BE SUCH A BAD

IDEA: Russia must be taken seriously. Did not Russia send warships to the Syrian region? What if Russia impedes our launches or counters our air strikes by shooting down our missiles? What will be the United States response? Did not Russia Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin indicate that the West is acting like a “monkey with a hand grenade?” What if China supports the Russians impeding our launches or shooting down of the U.S. missile strikes on Syria? What if Russia and China call for a special meeting of the UN Security Council to address this major Syrian concern? If a UN Security Council special meeting is called by a UN Security Council member, will the United States temporarily halt its military operations to strike Syria? Will President Obama, Secretary John Kerry or UN Ambassador Samantha Power make the case before the UN Security Council?

7) THERE ARE NO GOOD OUTCOMES WHEN OUTSIDERS INTERVENE IN A BRUTAL/INHUMANE CIVIL WAR:

Syria is a sovereign state. It has every right to defend itself from attacks from other sovereign nations. The Assad regime has indicated that it would use “all means available” to defend itself if the United States attacks. Would that include terror attacks in the United States itself and against Israel? If the US strikes Syria, what guarantees do we have that attacks will not happen against the United States and Israel?

8) MAKING A VERY BAD SITUATION WORSE FOR THE SYRIAN PEOPLE:

Halef al-Muftah, the Syrian propaganda minister's aide, indicated that Syria views Israel as "behind the aggression and therefore it will come under fire" should Syria be attacked by the United States. Why has this not surfaced in the news media as a major point of discussion? And what is President Obama's or his administration's response to this statement? Does Syria have strategic weapons to effectively retaliate? What would the United States response be to strategic weapons strikes on our vessels and Israel – spreading Sarin gas over large areas? Do we send immediate air support and troops? Or do we let Israel defend itself?

If a retaliation occurs when we attack the sovereign state of Syria, President Obama or Secretary of State John Kerry have not outlined what a proper and fitting response would be (if a retaliation occurs). Are our US Military Blackhawk Medevac units stationed and US military hospitals fully equipped to treat military personnel who have been exposed to Sarin gas?

9) THE WORSE CASE SCENARIO CAN HAPPEN GIVEN THE CURRENT INSTABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: What if both 7 & 8 happen simultaneously within a day or two, how is the United States going to handle this highly volatile situation?

Closing Statement

It is quite evident that a larger discussion and debate must ensue with regards to U.S. military interventions in the Middle East, North/Central Africa and elsewhere. U.S. Foreign Policy is not clear. It is fraught with far too many problematic issues and concerns. Specifically, before any U.S. attack on Syria, the President should clearly state his objective, what the attack should accomplish, why

and how. What if it does not work, and causes counter-attack on America soil and embassies?