

Mission Ready

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Why are suicide attacks “inevitable”?

Fans of Mission Ready will, we trust, pardon the following departure from our customary “business” themes. But, since the terror campaign against our nation most definitely targets our economy, we feel this month’s column is in keeping with the spirit of our newsletter for the business community.

During the last couple of weeks, the Vice President himself, as well as the Director of the FBI, have warned the American people that suicide bombings, like those occurring in Israel—and other attacks, perhaps even rivaling the magnitude of 9/11—are inevitable. For the first time in the American national experience, our leaders are trying to prepare us for indiscriminate attacks upon our families—attacks that we are advised to accept as a “certainty.”

The obvious question is, “Why must Americans have to accept this sad fate? Why does the world’s only superpower have to resign itself to indiscriminate violence—as if the warnings were about inevitable acts of nature—such as earthquakes—rather than the acts of human beings. Maybe it’s the Marine in us, but it seems to Rod and me that the regimes which finance, and make possible, the murder of women and children, do not sufficiently fear the United States. Surely, if the leaders of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya—and, yes, even Saudi Arabia—thought that suicide bombings on American soil would mean the simultaneous end of their re-

gimes, there would be no suicide bombings. Their hearts, suddenly, would be full of love and kindness.

Perhaps the Vice President and the FBI Director—who, with the best of intentions, were only trying to warn the American people—should have publicly warned others, instead. The leaders of the aforementioned dictatorships, for example, could be informed in no uncertain terms that an attack upon American families—from whomever—will be regime-ending.

If anybody is going to have to accept the “inevitability” of attacks, we think it should be the leaders of the terrorist states. If they truly believed that the actions of radical extremists would bring about their own destruction, these heretofore aloof dictatorships would, in the interests of survival, frantically hunt down and destroy their indigenous radical elements before the “Great Satan” is provoked into launching a non-negotiable and massive response. These terrorist dictatorships would become the reluctant policemen of the Middle East; they would shudder at the thought of a suicide bombing on American soil, because of the immediate consequences to their own power structure.

Unfortunately, as it stands today, America is hated and reviled in that part of the world—but not sufficiently feared.