

DESERT FLOOD

Return of desert back to savanna, as long before.

Using state of the art military weapons and systems.

A service by the US and British armed services in the Persian Gulf, poised for attack but ready to engage in a giant act of defense.

Or rather, of physical self-development. Just as a strong person is less likely to be attacked, so a strong country is less likely to be abused or set upon.

The British and American forces in the Gulf can work now on the southern and western flanks of Iraq, building up pathways for ancient rivers blocked in recent historical time by geological upheavals. They can use their explosive arsenal to break the barriers to through-flow, restoring the largest river system of Saudi Arabia, which enters the Gulf at Kuwait, and the largest basin, at least, once sloping into the Dead Sea. They use their aircraft, their missiles, their ground forces in follow up, to restore the Arabian Peninsula to its ante-deluvian state--when it was a savanna replete with vast herds of wild animals.

The Saudi Defense Minister knows well this past: he has a passion for hunting, he loves to fly around in his helicopter, but for now this can only be done in a small part of his country. We can start to change this.

Now, before the rainy season starting in winter, the massive firepower and manpower brought to bear in the Gulf can focus its weapons and energies on blasting out sustainable riverflows through the sand dunes east of one of the few naturally green areas in Saudi Arabia, letting them pass down to the Wadi-el-Batin as it fans into Kuwait. The delta that is Kuwait can be flushed out and revived. A vast multi-channel barrier of water takes form, just inside Iraq as well as throughout Kuwait, to help revive avapo-transpirative cycles throughout the Gulf region, which in turn generate more weather, for more water flow and life.

Now also, in a cut perpendicular to the flow into Kuwait, a channel can be blasted through lava and sedimentary rocks --again by advanced weaponry and carpet bombing techniques--in the relatively-low sill separating the salt rivers and lakes of Jordan from the Dead Sea Basin. Once the sill is cut, sometimes to a depth of several hundred meters, a physical connection restores the East Bank (not West Bank") to its upland Arab hinterland

Precision bombing runs can do much of the work. If conducted along the Wadi-el-Batin, from northeast to southwest, they follow the "Line of Prayer" to Mecca. At Buraidah, where the dune blockage begins for waters flowing west to east, a line at right angles follows a natural depression. Precision bombing along this line, starting in Saudi Arabia and continuing through Jordan to where lands start sloping away, towards the Dead Sea, can break up the salt encrustation's and start flow-through to the Jordan River and Dead Sea Valley. The now-desiccated basin begins to regain the water cycles which made it once called the "Promised Land."

In the Wadi-el-Batin track, blockage comes from about 100 km of sand dunes. Narrow sluices about 200 meters apart might do best to break the wave-dynamic power of the sand dunes, to reduce their potential for blocking all flow. In the Jordan Basin track, blockage comes from about; 40 km of lava: one or two troughs, some converging, can focus the gravity-borne flow from one basin into the other, all a short distance from the capital, Amman.

When "Desert Thunder" was starting up, experts began talking about the likely futility of an attack on Iraq. They said most of it would just be "bombing holes in the desert."

Well, volleys of deep-penetration bombs and missiles can be used for solely that purpose. The technical term is "trench bombing."

The trenches revive rivers that have been blocked since the cataclysms of Biblical fame. They give a new identity to territory now dried up. They release the energies and abilities of nearly 30,000 potential combatants, now hungry to act and now blocked by action against Iraq. We recast their work to be action for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan, with direct benefits even to Iraq. When winter comes and rains start, the trenches dug out can quickly fill up with waters from mountains far upstream, from storms and thunder far away. But rather than experience flash floods, then drying out in trapped lakes, we cut two pathways to the salt seas below. The Desert Flood trenches, reviving saltwater-freshwater exchanges downstream, restore the overall water cycle, bringing back more rain. They also, especially around Kuwait, effect defensive barriers against any attack from Iraq.

These actions are ecological useful.
They are peaceful and non-threatening.
But they are also good for military defense.

More important, perhaps, they help restore US standing in the Middle East and the world. They establish with American ingenuity and initiative a new game of world strategy: a race for superior ecological space.

One might say we are launching a space race, but not outside the earth. Rather, inside the life-envelope that is the earth.

There was Desert Shield, when this analysis began. Then there was Desert Storm. And now there is Desert Thunder... or now there isn't. A waiting game has ensued, with diplomats flying about and words warding off action.

Let the military test its new tactics and weapons. Let them do undertake a dramatic campaign, looking to the future rather than just the property rights of the past. The effort: build up, in several sites at once, in a multi-prong campaign: Desert Flood.

The sequel, starting next winter, with the rains, could be Desert Bloom.

Prepared by Peter Fend, to be organized and executed by Ocean Earth Development Corporation.

At 534 LAGAROLA
PLACE, KENNY
SCHACHTER