

Confront Iran

Diplomacy is a weak tool; action needed, says scholar.

Jim Colbert and Sophie Allweis
Special to the Jewish News

America cannot wait any longer and must act against Iran, declared a Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs scholar before an audience on June 25 at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.



JINSA's
Michael
Ledeen

An advocate of decisive, strong action, Dr. Michael Ledeen, on the Washington-based JINSA Board of Advisers, despairs that "every single American President from Carter to Obama" has tried to make a peaceful deal in negotiations with the radical Islamic

Republic of Iran, none with any success. The appearance was in recognition of the third anniversary of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit's kidnapping by Hamas terrorists.

Ledeen took President Obama to task for failing to learn from his predecessors' mistakes. Ledeen thinks it is delusional for the White House to believe that it can achieve different results with the same soft attitude towards the same hard-line regime.

Ledeen has focused for nearly 40 years on terrorism and Iran/ He was a consultant to the National Security Council, the State Department and the Pentagon. He is affiliated with the nonprofit Foundation for Defense of Democracies. His latest book is *Accomplice to Evil: Iran and the War Against the West* (Truman Talley Books, 2007). He recently set up the Centre for Democracy in Iran, an action group focused on producing regime change in Iran.

Ledeen noted that Iran's rulers, the ayatollahs, have made no secret that they desire both to destroy the United States and Israel and to extend the domain of their version of Islam all over the world. On these grounds, Ledeen argued prior to the 2003 American-led attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces that if America were to wage a war against terror, the key country to target would be Iran.

Taking action against Iran would be unpleasant and cost lives with the potential for failure, Ledeen acknowledged. However, it is necessary to realize that action at some point is inevitable and the

longer it is put off, the greater the threat to American national security and the more costly and deadly the future warfare will be. Unlike President George W. Bush, who was forced to fight back after 9-11 although he was unwilling to act earlier, Obama should see that America has the upper hand and preempt Iranian action.

Ledeen detailed why "this is a time for us to act." He reminded the audience that since the fraudulent recent election, Iranian citizens have been dying on their streets for the common value of freedom. He estimated that about 75 percent of Iranians want to see an end to their dictatorial regime. The U.S. should seize on the fresh wave of hostility towards the regime and support the people of Iran in this time of change, he said.

The wife of presidential challenger Mir-Hossein Mousavi was a central figure in his election campaign, inspiring women with her attitude that although she wears a hijab, others should be able to choose whether they do so. This was a revolutionary statement of human rights for a country where the Iranian constitution places the value of a woman at half that of a man.

Strategically, Ledeen said, Iran has been a dangerous enemy for 30 years, today killing as many Americans as possible in Iraq and Afghanistan. The current Iranian regime is the driving force behind international terrorism. The more Iran enhances its nuclear capability, the greater the instability in the Middle East, the greater the threat to Israel and the greater the danger to the U.S.

Ledeen recommended that in the short term, America make use of advanced technology and step up efforts to ensure that the Iranian people have access to accurate information about what is happening around their country. He advocated a strike fund so workers can leave their jobs while still supporting their families, especially those in the oil and textile industries, which are two major sources of revenue for the regime.

In a thought-provoking end to his address, Ledeen challenged his audience whether they want their children to grow up and ask, "Why didn't we do anything about Iran?" □

Jim Colbert is communications director and Sophie Allweis is a research associate for JINSA.

A Great Place to Shop

It's **Camp Season**
Warren Prescriptions
is the place to shop for
all your kids' camp needs.
grand kids



- Stationery
- Blankets
- Laundry Bags
- Back Packs
- Pillow Cases
- Autograph Pillows
- Sleeping Bags
- Toiletries • Toys

-WARREN COUPON-

20% OFF

Your Total Camp Purchase
of \$25 or More

May not be combined with any other offer • some restrictions apply
PLU9000 Limit 1 offer per family Expires 08/16/09

WARREN PRESCRIPTIONS

32910 MIDDLEBELT RD. at 14 Mile • FARMINGTON HILLS
(Next to Johnny Pomodoro's)

248-855-1177

1518720