



SYRIA

TURKEY

IRAQ

IRAN

EGYPT

KUWAIT

CYPRUS

LEBANON

BEIRUT

ISRAEL

JORDAN

JERUSALEM

DAMASCUS

BAGHDAD

TEHRAN

CAIRO

AMMAN

ADABA

TABUK

AL NAJAF

AL BASRAH

ABADAN

HA'IL

RAFFIA

UNAYAZAH

BAHRAIN

MANAMA

RIYADH

DOHA

ASYUT

AL GHURDAQAH

ISNA

MEDINA

SEVASTOPOL

ANKARA

SIVAS

ERZURUM

ISTANBUL

BURSA

IZMIR

KONYA

KARAMAN

ANTALYA

ADANA

GAZIANTEP

ALEPPO

MOSUL

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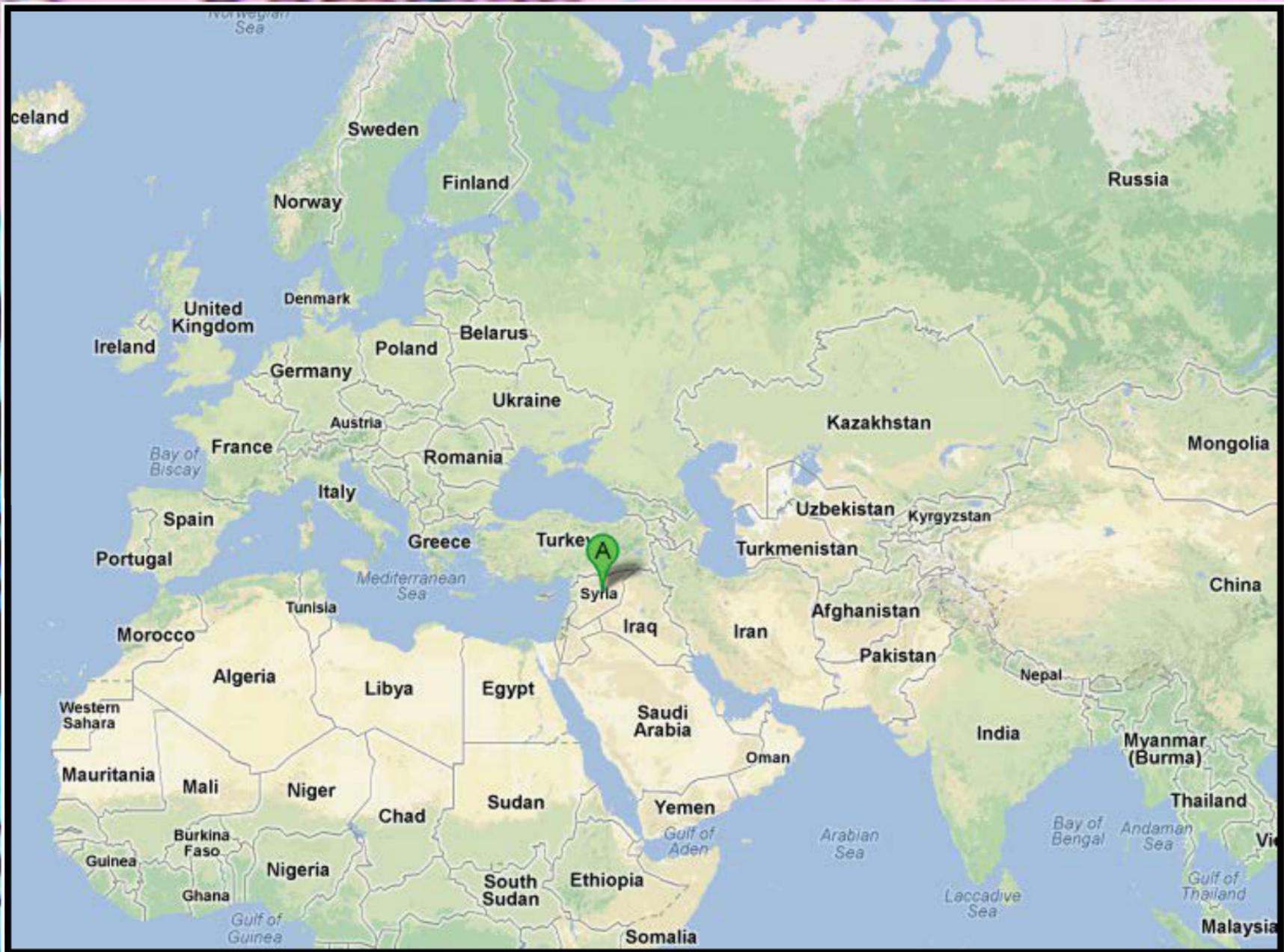
ISNA

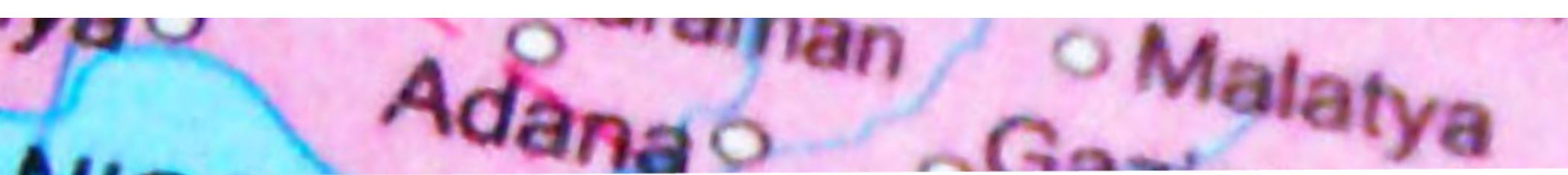
MEDINA



SYRIA

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The Beginning of Syria's Nuclear Program

1963 - Joined the IAEA

- Signed a Safeguards Agreement in 1992 (INFCIRC 407)
- Still no Additional Protocol Agreement

1969 - Ratified the NPT

1991 - Syria constructed its only known nuclear research reactor, the Der Al-Hadjar Nuclear Research Center (also Dayr al Hajar or Der Al-Hadjar), a Chinese-supplied Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR).

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Syria tried a number of times to gain nuclear assistance, both openly and covertly, from several sources including the IAEA, Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. The negotiations almost always fell through due to technical and financial limitations.

As agreed, the IAEA supplied training and equipment for a peaceful nuclear program.



2001 - Estimated Start date of the Dair Alzour site near the Euphrates River
- US began learning of multiple visits between North Korean and Syria

2003 - US began to determine that the interactions were nuclear-related

2005 - US obtained satellite imagery revealing a large building in a remote area of northeastern Syria near the city of Al-Kibar





2006 - the US acquired evidence of cargo being transferred from North Korea to Syria

2007 - (spring) the US began to suspect, due to the structure of the building, that it could be a covert nuclear reactor, similar in design to the Yongbyon reactor in North Korea

- High-level Syrian officials announced that Syria might pursue nuclear power for domestic energy needs.

However, Syria did not ask the IAEA for assistance or make any official decision on future nuclear power plants.

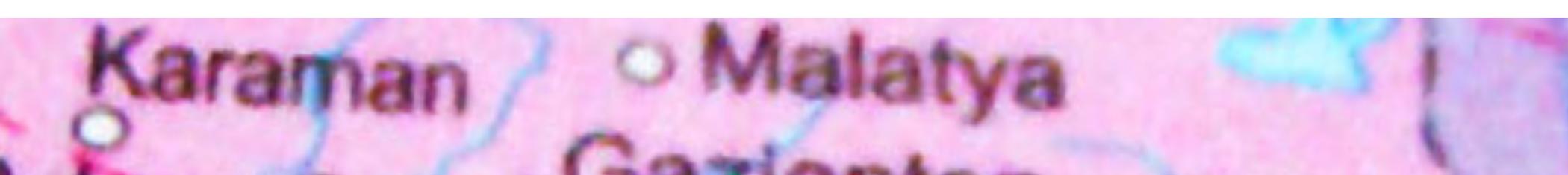
In the Spring of 2007, Israeli Prime Minister Olmert called President George W. Bush and asked him to bomb the Syrian compound.

President Bush saw 3 options:

1. Bomb a sovereign country with no warning
2. Organize a risky, covert raid
3. Brief allies, jointly expose the facility, and request Syria dismantle it under the supervision of the IAEA

4. ? What other options do you see?

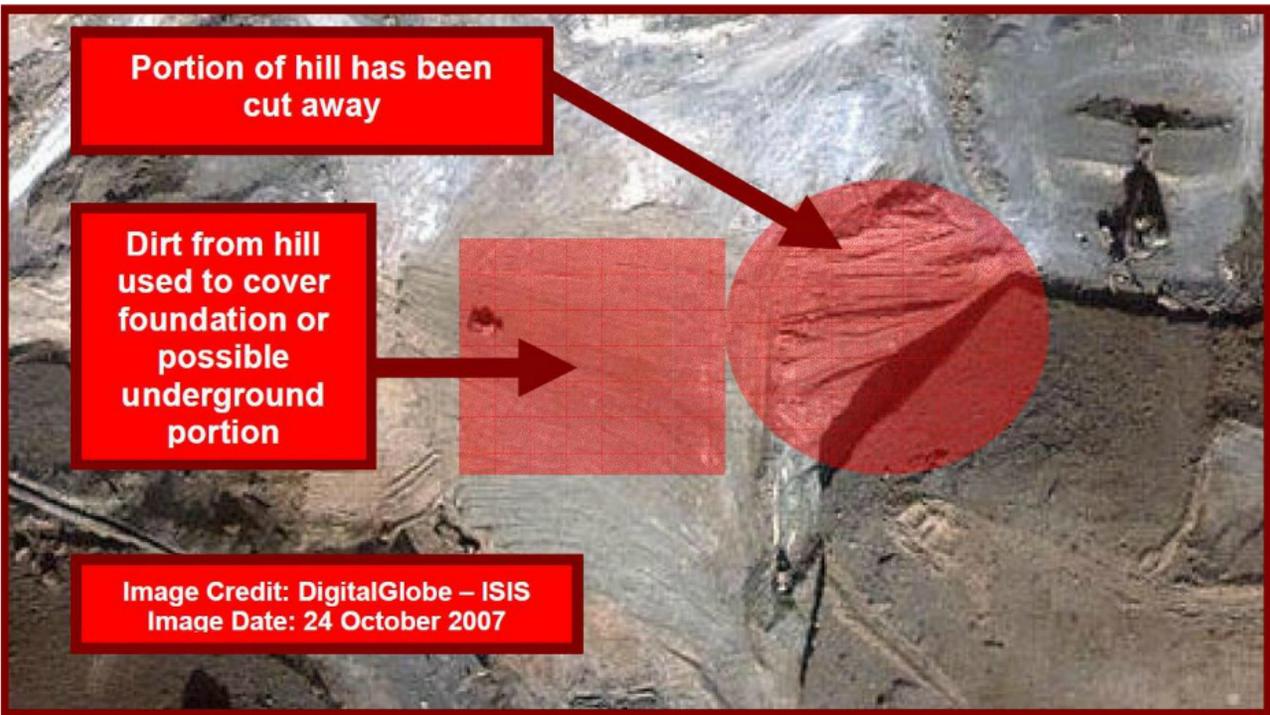




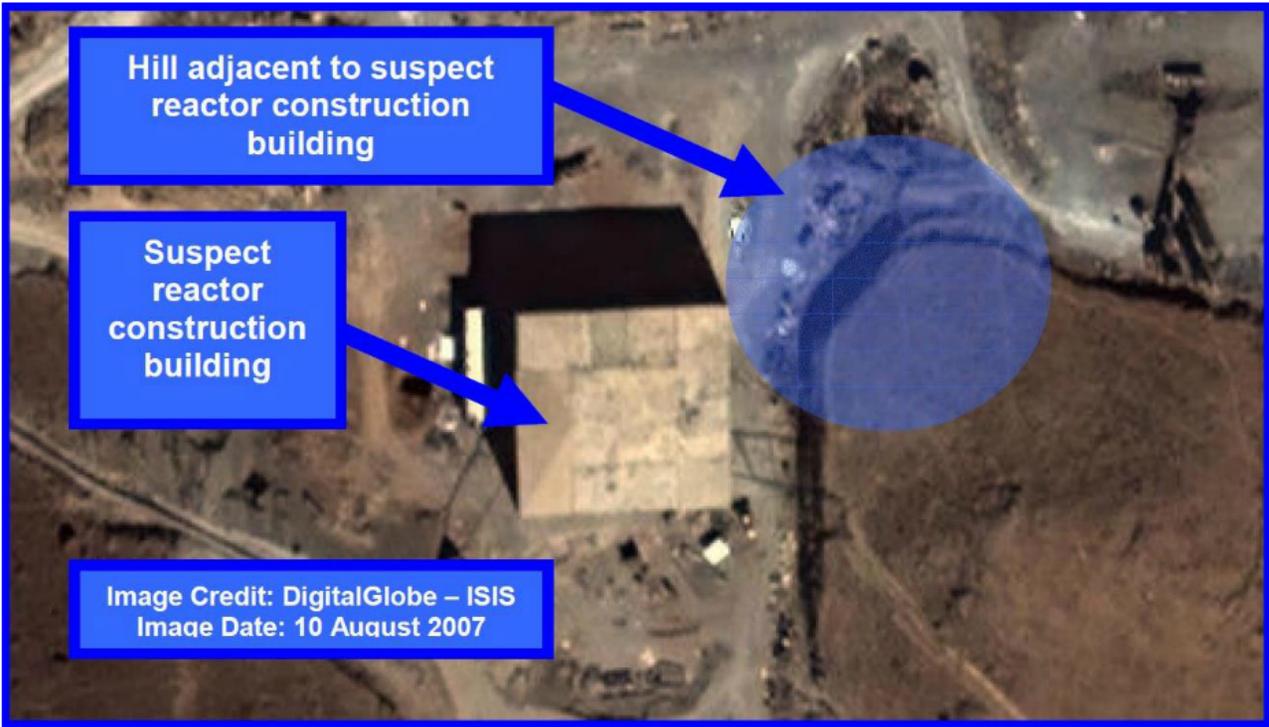
Bush reported back to Olmert that he could not justify such an attack on Syria and that US had chosen to take a diplomatic approach backed by the threat of force.

Olmert expressed his disappointment and ended the call by saying that the threat of a nuclear weapons program in Syria was an "existential" threat to Israel.

On September 6, 2007, an Israeli Airstrike destroyed the suspected Syrian reactor site.



Immediately following the airstrike, Syria began a massive effort to destroy the suspected reactor site.



On October 15, 2007, the IAEA issued a press release stating they had no information about any undeclared nuclear activity in Syria and they were trying to get in contact with the Syrian authorities.

The CIA produced the following briefings:



2008 - June 23, first IAEA visit to the Dair Alzour site

- Environmental Samples revealed significant amounts of uranium. Syria blamed it on the Israeli missiles.
- The IAEA was not provided access to any documents regarding the building design or purpose

2009 - IAEA decided that there was "low possibility" that Israeli "Missiles" were the source of the NU

- Syria stopped granting IAEA inspectors access to the suspected reactor site

2010 - IAEA continued to request access which Syria denied

2011 - IAEA Board of Governors found Syria in non-compliance and reported the issue to the UN Security Council

March 15 - beginning of the uprisings in Syria

2012/2013 - Still no new developments



SYRIA

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Syria obliged to report their (supposed) reactor at the Dair Alzour site?
2. Should the USA have immediately reported to the IAEA instead of waiting until after the Israeli airstrike?
3. Was Syria in “non-compliance” with its Safeguards Agreement with the Agency?
4. Was it appropriate to report the Syrian case to the Security Council?
5. What should/could the IAEA have done differently in its handling of the Syrian Case?
6. Analysis of the environmental samples taken from the Dair Alzour site carried out by the IAEA revealed a significant number of natural uranium particles. The analysis of these particles indicates that the uranium is anthropogenic, i.e. that the material was produced as a result of chemical processing. Syria stated that the only explanation for these particles was that they were contained in the missiles used to destroy the building. What do you think is the truth?
7. Considering that Israel never provided information on the material of their “missiles” and the US report indicated that nuclear fuel was not yet introduced in the reactor, the IAEA’s conclusion that the building held nuclear related activities and materials unrelated to gas cooled reactors is inconclusive. Do you agree with this statement?
8. Syria stated that the destroyed building could not have been a nuclear facility because of the unreliable and insufficient electricity supplies in the area, the limited availability of human resources in Syria and the unavailability of large quantities of treated water. Do you agree with this statement? Why?
9. Given the current domestic turmoil in the country, do you think that the IAEA or the international community should continue their investigations in Syria?
10. In your opinion, was the destroyed building at Dair Alzour actually an undeclared reactor?