Ideas have consequences.

home | archives | polls | search

Three Threats

This week:

- A ten-year-old boy in a small town in Texas phoned in a hoax warning to the police that his school was going to be blown up.
- A famous American holy man advocated blowing up the US State Department's headquarters with a nuclear weapon.
- Syria threatened the security of the world:

Undersecretary of State John Bolton who outlined the adminstration's case against Damascus to a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday ... reiterated U.S. accusations that Syria is developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

He accused Damascus of taking "a series of hostile actions," including allowing military equipment to flow into Iraq, and "permitting volunteers to pass into Iraq to attack and kill service members during the war", a practice which he says is continuing.

All three threats naturally caused consternation. What was done about them?

- The 10-year-old boy was arrested and will be charged with a felony.
- The holy man got his just deserts: he received a complaint from the State Department and was roundly ridiculed by the media.
- The Syrian regime was gently admonished and informed (with the greatest care not to damage its fragile dignity) that its present behaviour was wrong and unacceptable and might, if continued, incur consequences not including violence.

A world upside-down.

Meanwhile the nations of the world **flocked to the defence** of the Syrian regime's right to operate terrorist training camps. That's contemptible.

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