

COUNTDOWN TO CRISIS

THE COMING
NUCLEAR
SHOWDOWN
WITH IRAN

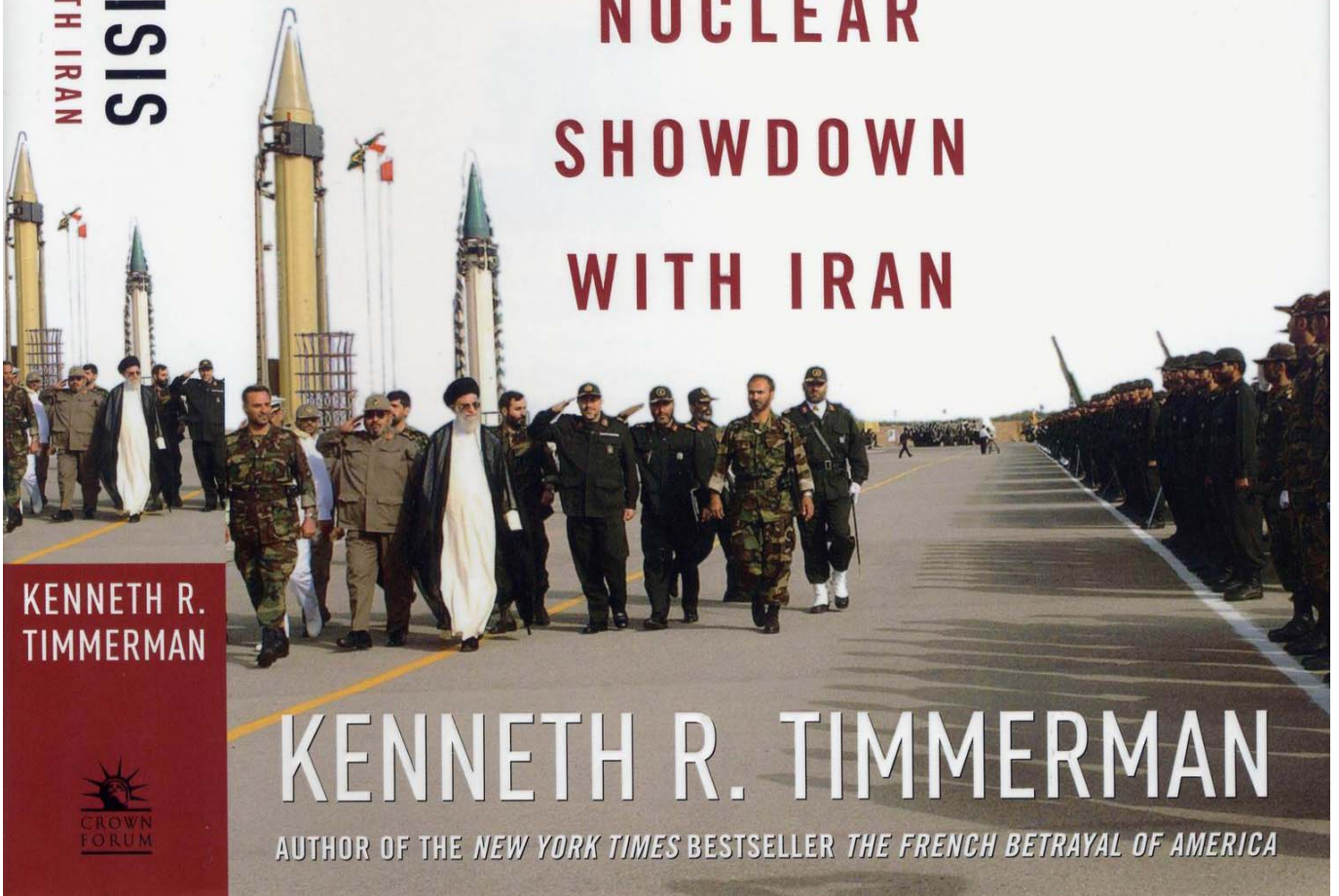
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THE COMING NUCLEAR SHOWDOWN WITH IRAN

KENNETH R.
TIMMERMAN



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AUTHOR OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER *THE FRENCH BETRAYAL OF AMERICA*



“Ken Timmerman delivers another blockbuster, this time on Iran and its clandestine nuclear program. Few things are more relevant to today’s world than what happens in the Middle East—especially in Iran, a major player in the ‘axis of evil.’ Read this book, be warned, and then equip yourself for battle.”

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and former Secretary of the Navy

THE SHOCKING UNTOLD STORY ABOUT THE DEADLY IRANIAN THREAT

Countdown to Crisis exposes the gravest threat to America: the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is targeting the United States for destruction. Investigative journalist and bestselling author Kenneth R. Timmerman taps his high-level Iranian and U.S. government sources and produces previously unpublished documents and photographs to uncover the startling truth about

- **Iran’s covert nuclear weapons program—which is further developed than any of us imagined**
- **the Islamic regime’s secret alliance with Osama bin Laden and their plans for future attacks on America**
- **the devastating intelligence failures—and cover-ups—that have kept us from dealing with the Iranian threat**

The clock is ticking.



Islamic Republic of Iran
Leader's Intelligence Organization

Date: 24 Ordibehesht 1380 (14 may 2001)

From: Director, Leader's Intelligence organization
[Hojjat-ol islam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri]

To: Director, MOIS—Section 43 [Hojjat-ol islam Mustafa Pourganad]

Subject: Tasking memo

We are very happy at the *Rahbar's* [Supreme Leader's] office with all you have undertaken . . .

The Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei] has seen your latest report regarding support and help for the future plan of al-Qaeda. Of course we are looking at different proposals for providing support, but all in all, after reviewing them, the Leader asked me to convey to you the following:

“Our emphasis should be the struggle with the Great Satan and Israel. This is our main agenda. It is not only important to us for tactical reasons, but for the greatness of Islam. Our main goal shall be to damage their economic structures and to damage their reputation and credibility. We shall concentrate on these two archenemies of the Islamic faith [the U.S. and Israel]. We must also strike at their internal peace and security. This is imperative. In this path, we should be very careful, and very clever, in order not to leave any evidence behind that can impact negatively on us in the future. Again I emphasize, we shall use our intelligence and internal security apparatus for this struggle and will coordinate with those foreign sources who share the same belief with us. These efforts should be centralized under the close supervision of our intelligence and security apparatus in order to be effective.”

The Leader mentioned that at our next meeting we should analyze the ideological and logistical problems in reaching our goals and of improving our plans, especially in coordination with fighters of al-Qaeda and Hezbollah, to find one target [*haddaf*] that is beneficial to both sides. We need to set aside our ideological differences and analyze the problems that would hamper us from reaching our goal. In particular, we should examine the expansion and coordination with al-Qaeda (*Shabbakeh*) group and Hezbollah to reach our common objective.

The Leader has expressed his full support for the implementation of the future plans of your department [Section 43] and again emphasized that we should not leave any evidence of our support for al-Qaeda that could give us problems or prejudice our standing.

The Leader suggested that we limit our relations with al-Qaeda to only two people, as before (Imad Mugniyeh and Ayman Zawahri) and not go beyond them and deal only with them.

[Signature seal in green wax]
Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri
Director, Leader's Intelligence Organization

[Rectangular stamp] Section 43—MOIS
Received by Mohebi
24 Ordibehesht 1380
Read: filed.