

NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS

This memorandum was written and published in Hebrew before the attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023 and the outbreak of the Swords of Iron war in Gaza, which is still ongoing as of the writing of this note. In the first weeks of the war there were daily exchanges of fire between Israel and Hezbollah, and while both sides have seemed reluctant to engage in a full-scale war, the possibility of a far more serious escalation clearly exists. There is also increased awareness in Israel that the pre-war status quo in the north is no longer tenable, and the Hezbollah threat will have to be addressed sooner or later.

Israel is making an effort to amend the pre-war situation in at least one important aspect: the distancing of Hezbollah's Radwan elite units from its border, and the reestablishment of the situation on the ground predicated in UN Resolution 1701, reached with the conclusion of the Second Lebanon War in 2006: no Hezbollah military presence south of the Litani River. It has yet to be seen whether that is achievable without larger scale military operations.

All of this will obviously have a considerable effect on the future objectives and methods of Israel's "campaign between wars" (CBW). Our conclusion in the memorandum, namely, that there is an urgent need to examine in depth the objectives, achievements, and future operational directions of the campaign between wars, as perhaps it had exhausted its usefulness, may seem obvious at this stage.

On the other hand, within the Israeli military establishment there is a growing understanding of some of the conclusions drawn in the memorandum, for example, that CBW helped Israel's enemies develop their "axis of resistance" strategy. The tragic events of October 7 also brought home all too painfully the effects of ignoring the impact of the emphasis on CBW on Israel's readiness for war, and in particular, multi-front war. Some will argue that under the current circumstances Israel is already facing a multi-front war, both in terms