

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MAY 10 2008

CHINA MODERNIZING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARSENAL

May 8, 2008 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "One of the world's leading experts in arms control said today that the Chinese military had realised that its nuclear weaponry had fallen behind those of other major powers and might not survive a "first strike" by potential adversaries.

Bates Gill, head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), said that as a result it was developing more flexible delivery systems, including from submarines, as well as the capacity to use multiple warheads.

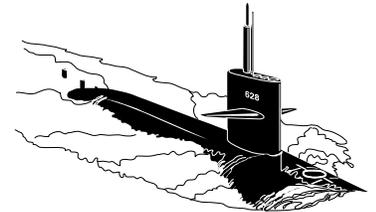
"Among the major nuclear powers China stands out in its effort to modernise, expand and improve its nuclear weapons capability," he said in Beijing today. "We see some very interesting and quite dramatic changes in the way its nuclear deterrent operates."



China's first nuclear test took place amid huge patriotic pride in 1964. But Chairman Mao was famously ambiguous about such weapons, once calling them "paper tigers". Over the years the country's nuclear arsenal has become more of a symbol of its great power status than a flexible adjunct to its military capabilities.

Its arsenal, estimated at between 100 and 200 warheads, is the smallest of the five big powers.

These are the United States, Russia, Britain and France. The US is currently updating its missiles and warheads. China now has a stated policy of never using nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear country, and never as a "first strike". But Dr Gill said its static nuclear delivery system had left it vulnerable to a first strike by others.



A quicker, sea-based capability would "make it less likely that an adversary could wipe out the possibility of a response," he said. The Daily Telegraph disclosed last week that China is constructing a secret nuclear submarine base to bolster its capabilities in the Pacific."..."

IRANIAN PRESIDENT: ISRAEL HEADING FOR DESTRUCTION

May 8, 2008 YnetNews.com reported: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad chooses to mark Israel's 60th Independence Day by warning Zionist regime of its 'impending doom'. "Israel is nothing but a stinking corpse," said Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Thursday, speaking with the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Unlike other world leaders who sent Israel their congratulations on its 60th Independence Day, Ahmadinejad chose to convey a radically different message.

"Those who think they can resuscitate the stinking corpse of the Zionist regime on its birthday are sorely mistaken... the very existence of the Zionist entity is questioned. It is heading for destruction.

"Israel has come to its end like the dead rat it became after it was beaten in the (Second) Lebanon War," added Ahmadinejad."..."

C. DIFFICILE LINKED TO DOZENS OF DEATHS AT ONTARIO HOSPITAL

May 8, 2008 CBC News reported: "Ontario's health minister plans to make it mandatory for hospitals to report cases of Clostridium difficile to the province after a Burlington hospital revealed that dozens of people had died in an outbreak of the bacteria.

George Smitherman made the announcement Wednesday after officials at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital released the results of an investigation into a 20-month outbreak. The external study found that the bacteria killed 30 patients and contributed to the deaths of 46 others. Earlier, the hospital said 12 people had died of the bacteria.

"It first came to our attention in late January [2007] that we had something different happening here with C. difficile than we'd seen before," hospital president and CEO Don Scott told CBC News.

In 2007, Burlington hospital had an overall rate of C. difficile of 2 infections per 200 patients, twice the rate of other Canadian hospitals.

In a news release, Scott stated that the results of the review have "saddened all of us."

The outbreak lasted from May 1, 2006, to Dec. 31, 2007. C. difficile causes swelling of the intestines and diarrhea, as well as fever and vomiting. The hospital said it hasn't had a new case of C. difficile since April 15, 2008. "The status at this time is certainly [C. difficile] is well under control," said Scott."..."

GEORGIA SAYS 'VERY CLOSE' TO WAR WITH RUSSIA

May 6, 2008 Globe and Mail reported: "Russia's deployment of extra troops in the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia has brought the prospect of war "very close", a minister of ex-Soviet Georgia said on Tuesday.

Separately, in comments certain to fan rising tension between Moscow and Tbilisi, the "foreign minister" of the breakaway Black Sea region was quoted as saying it was ready to hand over military control to Russia.

"We literally have to avert war," Temur Iakobashvili, a Georgian State Minister, told reporters in Brussels.

Asked how close to such a war the situation was, he replied: "Very close, because we know Russians very well."

"We know what the signals are when you see propaganda waged against Georgia. We see Russian troops entering our territories on the basis of false information," he said.

Georgia, a vital energy transit route in the Caucasus region, has angered Russia, its former Soviet master with which it shares a land border, by seeking NATO membership.

An April summit of the U.S.-led Western alliance stopped short of giving it a definite track towards membership but confirmed it would enter one day.

Russia has said its troop build-up is needed to counter what it says are Georgian plans to attack Abkhazia, a sliver of land by the Black Sea, and has accused Tbilisi of trying to suck the West into a war -- allegations Georgia rejects."..."

US ENVOY SAYS TOLL FROM MYANMAR CYCLONE MIGHT REACH 100,000

May 6, 2008 The Associated Press reported: "Hungry people swarmed the few open shops and fistfights broke out over food and water in Myanmar's swamped Irrawaddy delta Wednesday as a top U.S. diplomat warned that the death toll from a devastating cyclone could top 100,000.

The minutes of a U.N. aid meeting obtained by The Associated Press, meanwhile, revealed the military junta's visa restrictions were hampering international relief efforts.

Only a handful of U.N. aid workers had been let into the impoverished Southeast Asian country, which the government has kept isolated for five decades to maintain its iron-fisted control. The U.S. and other countries rushed supplies to the region, but most of it was being held outside Myanmar while awaiting the junta's permission to deliver it.

Entire villages in the Irrawaddy delta were still submerged from Saturday's storm, and bloated corpses could be seen stuck in the mangroves. Some survivors stripped clothes off the dead. People wailed as they described the horror of the torrent swept ashore by the cyclone.

"I don't know what happened to my wife and young children," said Phan Maung, 55, who held onto a coconut tree until the water level dropped. By then his family was gone.

A spokesman for the U.N. Children's Fund said its staff in Myanmar reported seeing many people huddled in rude shelters and children who had lost their parents.

"There's widespread devastation. Buildings and health centers are flattened and bloated dead animals are floating around, which is an alarm for spreading disease. These are massive and horrific scenes," Patrick McCormick said at UNICEF offices in New York.

Myanmar's state media said Cyclone Nargis killed at least 22,980 people and left 42,119 missing."..."

CHINA BATTLES DEADLY EV-71 VIRUS

May 8, 2008 The Los Angeles Times reported: "Chinese authorities have ordered local health officials to swiftly report all new cases of a fast-moving virus blamed for killing 28 children across the nation and infecting more than 15,000, most younger than 5.

Cases of Enterovirus-71, a strain of what is often called hand, foot and mouth disease, must be reported to the Health Ministry within 24 hours of detection, officials announced Wednesday.



"Some of the fatalities occurred because of late response time," said Mao Qunan, a Health Ministry spokesman. "They were sent to hospital too late, increasing the difficulty of treating them. But early detection and early treatment can help curb the outbreak."

The mandate was seen as an effort to avoid a repeat of the public health debacle that roiled Beijing during the SARS epidemic in 2003 that spread from China to other countries after initial treatment was delayed by a coverup.

The current outbreak initially was concentrated in the city of Fuyang in the eastern province of Anhui, where it claimed 22 lives and sickened about 4,000. But it quickly spread to at least 11 cities, from cosmopolitan Shanghai in the east to tropical Hainan in the south and mountainous Yunnan in the west. As symptoms appeared in Beijing, the upcoming Olympic host city, two kindergartens were shut down as a precaution...

Hand, foot and mouth is a common childhood plague typically characterized by blisters and rashes. There is no vaccine for EV-71; most children recover from mild forms of the disease."..."