



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 26 2009

IRAN'S PRESIDENT DERIDES OBAMA AND U.S.

December 23, 2009 Voice of America News reports: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed out at the United States again in a speech Tuesday, the latest outburst in what analysts say is an attempt to regain his political stature in the wake of the popular protests that have challenged the government since the disputed presidential election. Mr. Ahmadinejad is resorting more frequently to foreign and domestic travels in what appears to be an attempt to seek relevance.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke during a visit to the city of Shiraz, proclaiming that 'Middle East nations would not let the United States dominate the region,' and that the 'era of domination by arrogant powers ... is now over.'

He says that everybody should know the forces who are slaughtering people in Afghanistan today will have to leave Afghanistan, where they are far more humiliated than the Soviet Union and Britain. He also called recent accusations that Iran was attempting to work on sophisticated nuclear-weapons technology 'stale and tasteless,' adding the United States and Israel have more weapons than Iran.

He says that the United States has nearly 8,000 nuclear warheads and must be disarmed, while Israel has about 400 nuclear warheads too, and must be disarmed. He adds that Iran and all other nations have resisted, and will resist, until the complete disarmament of America and all the arrogant powers of the world..."

REPORT: SEIZED NORTH KOREAN WEAPONS WERE BOUND FOR IRAN

December 21, 2009 YnetNews.com reports: "A planeload of weapons from North Korea seized in Bangkok this month was bound for Iran, a newspaper report said Monday, citing documents obtained by arms trafficking experts. US Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair had said last week that the 35-tonne cargo, shipped in defiance of UN sanctions on Pyongyang, was bound for an unspecified Middle East destination.

The Wall Street Journal, quoting a flight plan obtained by researchers, said the plane was due to make refueling stops in Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Ukraine before unloading in Tehran. The paper said its new information came from a joint draft report by analysts at Chicago-based TransArms and the International Peace Information Service (IPIS) in Antwerp.

Thai officials said they impounded the Ilyushin-76 on a US tip-off after it landed to refuel at a Bangkok airport on December 11 with its cargo which included shoulder-launched missiles and rocket-propelled grenades. The Belarusian pilot and four Kazakh crew have been arrested.

Thai officials said the aircraft flew to Pyongyang via Bangkok two weeks ago to collect the cargo, then returned to Bangkok to refuel on December 11... Organizers of the shipment appeared to have taken great pains to hide their identities, using a variety of companies, the Journal said."..."



North Korea

MEDVEDEV: RUSSIA TO DEVELOP NEW NUCLEAR MISSILES

December 24, 2009 VOANews.com reported: "In his end of the year speech, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev says his country will develop a new generation of nuclear weaponry, even as it works toward a new strategic arms treaty with the United States. Russian President Dmitri Medvedev's comments were broadcast on Russia's state-run television networks.

Russia and the United States are continuing to hammer out the details of a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. The current treaty expired earlier this month, and senior U.S. and Russian officials say they expect to reach a new accord in early January. President Medvedev says that negotiations have been tense.

He says in some aspects, Russia is putting slight pressure on its partners, by saying this or that is unacceptable. He goes on to say that even though Moscow is working on, and will sign a new treaty, the Kremlin will nevertheless work on the development of its strategic assault forces because Russia cannot protect itself without this.

Mr. Medvedev said new missile technology will be developed in full accordance with any new arms agreements reached with Washington, but that other weapons are necessary. He says Russia's nuclear shield allows it to solve all the problems, which it has to solve. He says of course Russia will develop new systems, including delivery systems, that is, missiles. He says it is quite normal and that the whole world is doing this."..."

COPENHAGEN FAILURE 'DISAPPOINTING', 'SHAMEFUL'

December 20, 2009 EU Observer reported: "The Copenhagen summit, billed as a historic meeting about nothing less than saving the planet for human habitation, ended this weekend with a low-key accord that was rejected by poor nations, described as "disappointing" by EU leaders and condemned by NGOs as a "shameful, monumental failure."

After two years of preparations and ever grimmer scientific assessments of the state the planet is in, from its melting ice-caps to acidifying oceans, in the small hours of Saturday morning (19 December), it all came down to a deal agreed to by about 25 heads of state and put together outside the UN process by a clutch of countries led by China, South Africa, India, Brazil and the US.

The five-page-long text, which only "recognises" the need to limit global temperatures to rising no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but does not require that this happen, was itself only "recognised" by the 193 countries attending the Copenhagen summit and not approved by them.

Most developing countries - the hardest hit by global warming - have been pushing for an upper limit of 1.5 degrees as 2 degrees of average change still results in growth of up to four degrees in some parts of the planet. No emissions reduction ambitions were delineated for the key year of 2020, and even a previous target of cutting CO2 emissions by 80 percent by 2050 was abandoned. This came as a surprise to many observers, as commitments to quite deep cuts long after the current generation of politicians has left the stage have been nowhere near as controversial as discussions over shorter-term goals.

The European Union in the end did not make the leap from a 20 percent cut in emissions to 30 percent, reckoning that the other reduction offers on the table were not sufficiently ambitious.

While the scientific consensus is that at a minimum, CO2 must be reduced by developed countries by between 25 and 40 percent, the reduction pledges made by global powers amounted to between 13 and 19 percent. According to a late-hour analysis by the UN leaked to the press on the eve of the final talks, this would result in a temperature change of three degrees.

Despite the EU decision to hold back its 30 percent offer, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso insisted such a move was not ruled out at some point in the future. "This is not the final say. We need to keep working on this," he said.

The Copenhagen deal sets no year for a peak in emissions, although its implementation is to be reviewed by 2015. The accord also "sets a goal" of delivering \$100 billion a year to developing countries to help them deal with the effects of climate change and to move towards a low-carbon development path."..."

CONGRESS RAISES DEBT CEILING TO \$12.4 TRILLION

December 24, 2009 Breitbart.com reported: "The Senate voted Thursday to raise the ceiling on the government debt to \$12.4 trillion, a massive increase over the current limit and a political problem that President Barack Obama has promised to address next year.

The Senate's rare Christmas Eve vote, 60-39, follows House passage last week and raises the debt ceiling by \$290 billion. The vote split mainly down party lines, with Democrats voting to raise the limit and Republicans voting against doing so. There was one defection on each side, by senators whose seats will be on the ballot next year: GOP Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, and Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana.

"I would not support raising the debt ceiling because Congress has not adopted a credible process to restrain spending and eliminate red ink," Bayh said a statement after the vote."..."

INTERVIEW - HAMAS ARMED WING SAYS READY FOR NEW FIGHT

December 24, 2009 Reuters reported: "As an Israeli drone flew overhead, a masked Hamas spokesman said the Islamist group would not shirk from battle with Israel, which carried out a powerful Gaza offensive a year ago.

"We do not wish for war. We wish for calm and peace for our people," Abu Ubaida, spokesman for Hamas's armed wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, said late on Wednesday from the cover of an orchard in the Gaza Strip."..."

Israel has said the brigades, which some observers estimate have 25,000 fighters, have been seeking with Syrian and Iranian help to upgrade their rocket capabilities and put the Israeli heartland and the commercial capital of Tel Aviv within range.

Abu Ubaida, who moved with armed guards to different parts of the orchard during the interview to stay out of sight of the drone, said Hamas had no choice but to improve its arsenal.

"The enemy is developing its weapons and is using internationally banned weapons against us," he said, without giving details.

"Therefore, we have the right to use any weapon that we deem suitable and we have the right to get into (Gaza) any weapon that we see as appropriate in the ongoing battle with the occupation," Abu Ubaida said, using Hamas's term for Israel."..."



AHMADINEJAD DISMISSES US DEADLINE FOR NUCLEAR DEAL

December 22, 2009 MyWay.com reported: "Iran's president on Tuesday dismissed a year-end deadline set by the Obama administration and the West for Tehran to accept a U.N.-drafted deal to swap enriched uranium for nuclear fuel. The United States warned Iran to take the deadline seriously.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also accused the U.S. of fabricating a purported Iranian secret document that appears to lay out a plan for developing a critical component of an atomic bomb. Ahmadinejad's remarks underscored Tehran's defiance in the nuclear standoff - and also sought to send a message that his government has not been weakened by the protest movement sparked by June's disputed presidential election. He spoke a day after the latest opposition protest by tens of thousands mourning a dissident cleric who died over the weekend."..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*