



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 04 2010

STEPHEN HAWKING: GOD WAS NOT NEEDED TO CREATE THE UNIVERSE

September 2, 2010 Telegraph.co.uk reported: "The scientist has claimed that no divine force was needed to explain why the Universe was formed. In his latest book, *The Grand Design*, an extract of which is published in *Eureka* magazine in *The Times*, Hawking said: "Because there is a law such as gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the Universe exists, why we exist."

He added: "It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the Universe going."

In *A Brief History of Time*, Prof Hawking's most famous work, he did not dismiss the possibility that God had a hand in the creation of the world. He wrote in the 1988 book: "If we discover a complete theory, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason — for then we should know the mind of God."

In his new book he rejects Sir Isaac Newton's theory that the Universe did not spontaneously begin to form but was set in motion by God.

In June this year Prof Hawking told a Channel 4 series that he didn't believe that a "personal" God existed. He told *Genius of Britain*: "The question is: is the way the universe began chosen by God for reasons we can't understand, or was it determined by a law of science? I believe the second. If you like, you can call the laws of science 'God', but it wouldn't be a personal God that you could meet, and ask questions."..."

WORLD MUST PREPARE FOR IRAN MILITARY OPTION: BLAIR

September 1, 2010 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Former British premier Tony Blair warned in an interview Wednesday that the international community may have "no alternative" to taking military action against Iran if it develops a nuclear weapon.

"I am saying that I think it is wholly unacceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapons capability and I think we have got to be prepared to confront them, if necessary militarily," he said in extracts pre-released by the BBC from an interview to publicise his memoirs.

"I think there is no alternative to that if they continue to develop nuclear weapons. They need to get that message loud and clear."

Blair expanded on the point in his book, which is being published Wednesday, saying that while a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a threat to the West, the real danger would come with its ability to boost Islamic extremism.

"Let us be frank: Iran is a far more immediate threat to its Arab neighbours than it is to America" or Britain, he wrote in the memoir, which recounts his experiences during his decade as prime minister from 1997 to 2007.

"That's why Iran matters. Iran with a nuclear bomb would mean others in the region acquiring the same capability; it would dramatically alter the balance of power in the region, but also within Islam."

Western powers and Israel accuse Iran of trying to build a nuclear arsenal. Iran, which on Saturday began loading fuel into its Russian-built first nuclear power plant, denies the allegations, saying its programme is for civil energy purposes only."



OBAMA COULD KILL FOSSIL FUELS OVERNIGHT WITH A NUCLEAR DASH FOR THORIUM

August 28, 2010 Telegraph.co.uk reported: "We could then stop arguing about wind mills, deepwater drilling, IPCC hockey sticks, or strategic reliance on the Kremlin. History will move on fast. Muddling on with the status quo is not a grown-up policy. The International Energy Agency says the world must invest \$26 trillion (£16.7 trillion) over the next 20 years to avert an energy shock. The scramble for scarce fuel is already leading to friction between China, India, and the West.

There is no certain bet in nuclear physics but work by Nobel laureate Carlo Rubbia at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) on the use of thorium as a cheap, clean and safe alternative to uranium in reactors may be the magic bullet we have all been hoping for, though we have barely begun to crack the potential of solar power.

Dr Rubbia says a tonne of the silvery metal – named after the Norse god of thunder, who also gave us Thor's day or Thursday - produces as much energy as 200 tonnes of uranium, or 3,500,000 tonnes of coal. A mere fistful would light London for a week.

Thorium eats its own hazardous waste. It can even scavenge the plutonium left by uranium reactors, acting as an eco-cleaner. "It's the Big One," said Kirk Sorensen, a former NASA rocket engineer and now chief nuclear technologist at Teledyne Brown Engineering.

"Once you start looking more closely, it blows your mind away. You can run civilisation on thorium for hundreds of thousands of years, and it's essentially free. You don't have to deal with uranium cartels," he said.

Thorium is so common that miners treat it as a nuisance, a radioactive by-product if they try to dig up rare earth metals. The US and

Australia are full of the stuff. So are the granite rocks of Cornwall. You do not need much: all is potentially usable as fuel, compared to just 0.7pc for uranium.

After the Manhattan Project, US physicists in the late 1940s were tempted by thorium for use in civil reactors. It has a higher neutron yield per neutron absorbed. It does not require isotope separation, a big cost saving. But by then America needed the plutonium residue from uranium to build bombs.

"They were really going after the weapons," said Professor Egil Lillestol, a world authority on the thorium fuel-cycle at CERN. "It is almost impossible make nuclear weapons out of thorium because it is too difficult to handle. It wouldn't be worth trying." It emits too many high gamma rays.

You might have thought that thorium reactors were the answer to every dream but when CERN went to the European Commission for development funds in 1999-2000, they were rebuffed.

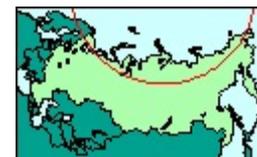
Brussels turned to its technical experts, who happened to be French because the French dominate the EU's nuclear industry. "They didn't want competition because they had made a huge investment in the old technology," he said. "..."

PUTIN HINTS WILL RETURN TO KREMLIN IN 2012

August 31, 2010 Reuters reported: "Russia's paramount leader, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, hinted on Monday he would return to the presidency in 2012 for six more years and said democracy protesters marching without permission deserved to be beaten.

Asked by the Kommersant daily newspaper in an interview whether Russia's 2012 presidential election did not worry him because he had already decided it, Putin replied: "No, it interests me like...I wanted to say like everyone, but in fact more than everyone else. But I don't want to make a fetish out of it."

Putin ruled as president from 2000 to 2008 before handing the presidency to his chosen successor Dmitry Medvedev, in order to observe a law banning a third consecutive term. However Putin will be free to run again in 2012 for a newly extended term of six years."..."



TWO MORE WEEKS TO LOAD FUEL IN IRAN'S NUCLEAR PLANT

August 31, 2010 Agence France Presse reports: "Iran will need another two weeks to complete the process of loading fuel into its Russian-built first nuclear power plant, atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi has said. The process of loading 163 fuel rods, also supplied by Russia, into the nuclear power plant located in the southern port city of Bushehr began on August 21 and was to be completed by September 5. Thereafter the rods were to be transferred to the reactor.

But late on Monday state news agency IRNA quoted Salehi as saying that it will take another two weeks to shift the rods into the plant.

'From now on it will take 10 to 15 days for the 163 fuel rods to be moved into the main building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant and then we have to transfer the fuel rods into the reactor,' Salehi said.

Last Thursday, IRNA quoted Salehi as saying that the transfer of fuel rods into the reactor would start at the end of the Iranian month of 'Shahrivar (September 22) and at the end of (Iranian month of) Mehr (October 22), we will close the lid of the reactor.'

Salehi blamed Bushehr's 'severe hot weather' for the delay in moving the rods into the plant and said that this work was being done during the night.

Iranian officials had earlier said the Bushehr plant's commissioning is expected in October or November when the electricity it generates is connected to the national grid."..."

FEARS GROW OVER GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY

September 2, 2010 Financial Times reported: "Russia announced a 12-month extension of its grain export ban on Thursday, raising fears about a return to the food shortages and riots of 2007-08 which spread through developing countries dependent on imports.

The announcement by Vladimir Putin came as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation called an emergency meeting to discuss the wheat shortage, and riots in Mozambique left seven dead.

The unrest in Maputo, in which 280 people were also injured, followed the government's decision to raise bread prices by 30 per cent. Police opened fire on demonstrators after thousands turned out to protest against the price hikes, burning tyres and looting food warehouses.

Although agricultural officials and traders insist that wheat and other crop supplies are more abundant than in 2007-08, officials fear the deadly Mozambique riots could be replicated. The 2007-08 food shortages, the most severe in 30 years, set off riots in countries from Bangladesh to Mexico, and helped to trigger the collapse of governments in Haiti and Madagascar.

The Russian announcement extended an export ban first announced last month until late December 2011, sending wheat and other cereals prices to near a two-year high."...Russia is traditionally the world's fourth-largest wheat exporter, and the export ban has already forced importers in the Middle East and North Africa, the biggest buyers, to seek supplies in Europe and the US."..."

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