



PROPHETIC TIMES

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US NOT HELPING TAIWAN CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAM

December 13, 2010 SpaceDaily.com reports: "The United States has not provided any help to Taiwan in its bid to mass produce cruise missiles, a Pentagon spokesman said Friday, as a Chinese military delegation held talks here. Taiwan's Deputy Defense Minister Chao Shih-chang confirmed to parliament for the first time Wednesday that the island was mass-producing cruise missiles.

'Mass production of indigenous weapons like the ones under the code names of 'Chichun' (Lance Hawk) and 'Chuifeng' (Chasing Wind) is very smooth,' Chao said.

Asked whether the United States had provided any assistance to the island in its program, Pentagon spokesman David Lapan said: 'Don't believe so.'

Chao declined to specify the range of the missiles or the number to be put into service..."



SPANISH RESEARCHERS WANT TO TAG HUMAN EMBRYOS WITH BAR CODES

December 13, 2010 FoxNews.com reported: "In futuristic movies like "Aliens 2" and "12 Monkeys," prisoners are bar coded for easy identification. But today's reality is even wilder: Scientists have proposed bar-coding embryos.

Researchers from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain have just finished testing a method for imprinting microscopic bar codes on mouse embryos -- a procedure they plan to test soon on humans. The venture is meant to avoid mismatches during in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer procedures. But privacy experts and children's rights advocates were instantly concerned by the concept of "direct labeling" of embryos, calling for transparency in the process.

"An embryo is a human life, so we have to move forward with this very, very cautiously," Pam Dixon, executive director for the World Privacy Forum, told FoxNews.com. "Obviously we can't ask the embryo what it wants, so the individual making the donation must consent to this as well as the individual receiving the donation. There's got to be a lot of public discussion."

The researchers insist that their technique is perfectly safe, claiming that the bar codes simply evaporate as the embryo develops into a fetus. Dr. Arthur Caplan, the director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said that as long as development is not affected, any improvement on embryo transfer would be extremely beneficial -- since mistakes can be heartbreaking.

"When you're talking about mismatch, those kinds of errors are psychologically and emotionally devastating," Caplan told FoxNews.com. "You have parents who want to reject the child saying that the child clearly isn't the same race as they are. There's also a danger that the donor may change their mind and want to get involved in parenting. People really want that biological connection. So I think this is a terrific idea to reduce those difficulties."

The bar codes aren't hidden or concealed -- in fact, they're easily observed through a standard microscope, and the research team hopes to develop an automatic code reading system when they perfect their technique for labeling mouse embryos.

And once that's done, testing on human embryos will begin.

"We're very enthusiastic about it," said Elena Ibáñez, one of the researchers for the project -- a collaboration with researchers from the Institute of Microelectronics of Barcelona and the Spanish National Research Council. "It's something that if it works out, it could be extremely helpful for embryologists. Right now, fertility clinics are simply labeling the Petri dish. We're just making an improvement on that system," she told FoxNews.com.

The process involves injecting the bar codes, made from silicon, in the perivitelline space of embryos, the space between an embryo's cell membrane and its protective outer cover, known as the zona pellucida. When the embryo attaches to the uterine wall, it frees itself from the zona pellucida, and the codes are meant to disappear right along with it, the researchers say.

This final stage has proven to be the most difficult for the researchers to polish, however; they'd like to find a more efficient means of "stamping" the embryos.

"We see in the mice that some of the codes get attached to the embryo itself," said Ibáñez. "So one of the things we're trying next is to implant the code directly on the outside cover rather than inside of it. That way we'll be 100 percent sure that the code doesn't remain."..."

CHAVEZ SEEKS POWER TO RULE BY DECREE FOR 1 YEAR

December 14, 2010 The Associated Press reported: "Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday asked congress to grant him special powers to enact laws by decree for one year, just before a new legislature takes office with a larger contingent of opposition lawmakers.

The measure would give the president the ability to bypass the National Assembly for the fourth time since he was first elected almost 12 years ago.

Vice President Elias Jaua made the request on Chavez's behalf, saying the president will use the authorization to ensure fast-track approval of laws aimed at helping the nation recover from severe flooding and mudslides that left thousands homeless and in government shelters.

"The measures we have to take are deep. Almost 40 percent of the country was affected" by the heavy rains, Jaua said. It is expected to win easy approval in the outgoing legislature dominated by Chavez allies.

Chavez's opponents accuse him of using the natural disaster to impose socialist-inspired measures and undermine the power of newly elected opposition lawmakers.

Hundreds of Chavez opponents protested outside the legislature Tuesday, saying Chavez is violating democratic principles and objecting to other planned laws that could impose regulations on the Internet and endanger Globovision, the country's last stridently anti-Chavez television channel."

Jaua also mentioned plans to legislate in the area of "international cooperation." Chavez has urged lawmakers to pass a law barring non-governmental organizations such as human rights groups from receiving U.S. funding."

Newly elected opposition lawmaker Julio Borges said the measures being taken up by the National Assembly in its final days go against the will of the voters."

Opposition newspaper editor Teodoro Petkoff called it a "Christmas ambush," writing in his daily Tal Cual that Chavez is preparing totalitarian measures that amount to "a brutal attack ... against democratic life."

In his nearly 12 years in office, the leftist Chavez has been granted temporary decree powers three times by lawmakers, in 1999, 2001 and 2007. The last time, he enjoyed special legislative powers for 18 months and used them to seize control of privately run oil fields, impose new taxes and nationalize telecommunications, electricity and cement companies."

ISRAEL GENERAL DROPS MISSILE DEFENSE BOMBSHELL

December 15, 2010 SpaceDaily.com reports: "Maj. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot, commander of Israel's northern front, has dropped a bombshell by disclosing that the anti-missile systems the defense industry has developed are intended to protect the country's military installations, not its cities and civilian population.

'The residents of Israel shouldn't be under the illusion that someone will open an umbrella over the heads' in the event of a massive missile and rocket attack by Israel's enemies, he declared in a speech Sunday at the University of Haifa.

'The systems are designed to protect military bases, even if this means that citizens suffer discomfort during the days of battle.'

Eisenkot's uncompromising statement did nothing to ease a spate of dire warnings by political and military chiefs in recent weeks that Israel's cities, particularly Tel Aviv and its densely populated environs, will be major targets in any new conflict."

SCIENCE OF MAN-MADE LIFE CAN PROCEED: WHITE HOUSE

December 16, 2010 Breitbart.com The White House on Thursday said the controversial field of synthetic biology, or manipulating the DNA of organisms to forge new life forms, poses limited risks and should be allowed to proceed. An expert panel convened by President Barack Obama advised vigilance and self-regulation as scientists seeks ways to create new organisms that could spark useful innovations in clean energy, pollution control and medicine.

The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues "concluded that synthetic biology is capable of significant but limited achievements posing limited risks," it said in its first report.

"Future developments may raise further objections, but the Commission found no reason to endorse additional federal regulations or a moratorium on work in this field at this time."...Critics said the discovery was tantamount to "playing God," creating organisms without adequate understanding the ramifications, and upsetting the natural order."



IRAN PLACING MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES IN VENEZUELA CAN REACH THE U.S.

December 8, 2010 Hudson-ny.org reported: "Iran is planning to place medium-range missiles on Venezuelan soil, based on western information sources, according to an article in the German daily, Die Welt, of November 25, 2010. According to the article, an agreement between the two countries was signed during the last visit of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to Tehran on October 19, 2010. The previously undisclosed contract provides for the establishment of a jointly operated military base in Venezuela, and the joint development of ground-to-ground missiles.

At a moment when NATO members found an agreement, in the recent Lisbon summit (19-20 November 2010), to develop a Missile Defence capability to protect NATO's populations and territories in Europe against ballistic missile attacks from the East (namely, Iran), Iran's counter-move consists in establishing a strategic base in the South American continent - in the United States's soft underbelly.

According to Die Welt, Venezuela has agreed to allow Iran to establish a military base manned by Iranian missile officers, soldiers of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Venezuelan missile officers."...The German daily claims that according to the agreement, Iranian Shahab 3 (range 1300-1500 km), Scud-B (285-330 km) and Scud-C (300, 500 and 700 km) will be deployed in the proposed base. It says that Iran also pledged to help Venezuela in rocket technology expertise, including intensive training of officers."

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