



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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IRAN: HOW LONG CAN DEBT-LADEN US REMAIN WORLD POWER?

October 18, 2012 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad predicted the impending downfall of the "US empire," blaming the collapse on a combination of the country's massive debt and its loss of legitimacy within the international community, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Thursday.

"How long can a government with a \$16 trillion foreign debt remain a world power?" he asked at a press conference with Kuwaiti media personnel. "The Americans have injected their paper wealth into the world economy and today the aftermaths and negative effects of their pseudo-wealth have plagued them."

He added: "An empire, or a government, remains in power so long as the people under its power support it, but today the Americans have acted in a way that the world nations do not like them at all, and therefore, their international legitimacy is annihilated."

Ahmadinejad also predicted that the West would soon drop their alliance with the "Zionist regime," saying that Westerners and US politicians are increasingly "at a loss" as to why Israel exists.

Downplaying the effect of Western sanctions on the Iranian economy, Ahmadinejad said that the Islamic Republic would persevere..." Earlier this month, riots broke out in Tehran in protest of the collapse of the rial currency, which has lost some two-thirds of its value against the dollar in the past 15 months, stoking inflation that is now running at around 25 percent.

US, ISRAEL PREPARE FOR MAJOR JOINT MILITARY DRILL

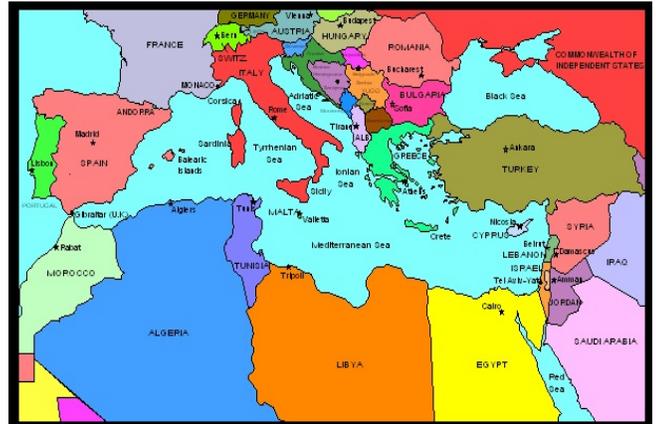
October 17, 2012 US troops and equipment have begun arriving in Israel ahead of what a senior air force officer on Wednesday called "the largest exercise in the history of the longstanding military relationship between the US and Israel."

He did not give precise dates, saying only that it would begin towards the end of October or early November and last "about three weeks."

Lieutenant General Craig Franklin told journalists in a telephone briefing that the drill, "Austere Challenge 2012" (AC12) was defensive and unrelated to the Iran nuclear crisis...

Originally scheduled for spring, when the massive joint missile defence drill was postponed local media suggested that it could be a victim of disagreement between US President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over a possible military strike on Iran.

Despite disclaimers, the exercise, involving a total of 3,500 US personnel and 1,000 Israeli troops, will be seen as sending a clear signal to Tehran amid tension over Iran's nuclear drive, which Israel, Washington and much of the international community believe masks a weapons drive.



NETANYAHU WARNS OF SYRIA ATTACK OVER CHEMICAL WEAPONS

October 17, 2012 Israel National News reported: "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warned on Tuesday that Israel would not hesitate to launch a military operation in Syria if it feels that there is a threat that the country's stockpile of chemical weapons will end up in the hands of terrorist organizations such as Hizbullah.

'Israel will consider a military operation if it feels there is a fear that chemical weapons will leak to terrorist groups like Hizbullah,' Netanyahu said during his meeting with European Union diplomats in Jerusalem. He added that 'Hizbullah is actively engaged in the massacre of the Syrian people.' Netanyahu also referred to the support that President Bashar Al-Assad's regime receives from Iran, saying that 'without Iran - Assad would survive.'

Syria has admitted it has chemical weapons and has threatened to use them if attacked by external forces. It claimed it will not use these weapons on rebels fighting to oust Assad..."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TAKING AIM AT JORDAN

October 14, 2012 WND.com reported: "Following successful campaigns in Egypt, Libya and other Middle East and North African nations, the Muslim Brotherhood now is trying to destabilize and possibly overthrow Jordan's government, according to reports.

The Saudi-owned news channel Al-Arabiya, citing leaked files, reported the embattled regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his allies have sought to destabilize neighboring Jordan by manipulating peaceful demonstrations there and turning them into deadly violence.

The leaks came amid rising political tensions in Jordan. Mass demonstrations in the capital Amman were sparked by a decision by Jordan's King Abdullah to dissolve the parliament ahead of Muslim Brotherhood protests planned for Friday. Abdullah is calling for early elections.

International Christian Concern's Middle East analyst, Aidan Clay, says the Muslim Brotherhood is one of the biggest threats to Jordan's stability. He said the move to dissolve the parliament as a gesture of compromise was politically risky for the king. The Muslim Brotherhood did not accept the move, Clay noted, considering it to be half-hearted.

"Yet, the king is still a seasoned politician who may be able to offer concessions that the Muslim Brotherhood accepts," he said.

"The problem is, of course, that once concessions are offered, the Muslim Brotherhood will likely be emboldened and demand even more," Clay warned."...."

IRAN SCOFFS AT ISRAEL AIR DEFENCES AFTER DRONE FLIGHT

October 14, 2012 Spacedaily.com reported: "Iran on Sunday scoffed at Israel's air defences as it confirmed Tehran had provided Lebanon's militant group Hezbollah with the sophisticated drone which overflew the Jewish state earlier this month.

Iran's "capabilities are very high and are at the disposal and service of Islamic nations," Defence Minister General Ahmad Vahidi said, quoted by state television when questioned on the origins of the unmanned aerial vehicle.

"It is natural to use whatever we have at our disposal at the necessary time to defend the lands of the Islamic world," the general said. "This move shows that Hezbollah is fully prepared ... and will respond to the Zionist regime."

He said the drone which overflew Israel "shattered everything that was said about the Iron Dome system (Israel's air defence shield) and it became clear that the Zionist regime can not escape Muslim anger."

Iran has developed a programme of manufacturing drones to be used for surveillance and attacks. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah boasted last week that his group sent a sophisticated unmanned drone over Israel, saying the device was built by the Jewish state's archfoe Iran."...."

EUROPE'S MOST POWERFUL COUNTRIES CALL FOR ELECTED EU PRESIDENT

September 18, 2012 The Telegraph reported: "Germany, France and nine other of Europe's most powerful countries have called for an elected European Union president and an end to Britain's veto over defence policy in a radical blueprint mapping out the continent's future.

In a document released on Tuesday after a meeting between 11 foreign ministers in Warsaw, the bloc, which includes all the largest European countries outside Britain, charted a vision for the "future of Europe".

As well as calling for a single, elected head of state for Europe, the bloc demanded a new defence policy, under the control of a new pan-EU foreign ministry commanded by Baroness Ashton, which "could eventually involve a European army".

In order to "prevent one single member state from being able to obstruct initiatives", a reference to British opposition to a European army, the German-led grouping demanded an end to existing national vetoes over foreign and defence policy. This would give the EU the power to impose a decision on Britain if it is supported by a majority of other countries.

The plan, which has the backing of Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Holland, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and Portugal the plan, is likely to fuel calls for a British referendum on membership of the European Union.

The document also proposed sweeping new powers for the European Parliament and further splitting of the EU by creating a new parliamentary sub chamber for the 17 countries of the eurozone.

In a joint statement, Guido Westerwelle and Radek Sikorski, the foreign ministers of Germany and Poland, called for the creation of a single EU President, running the commission and overseeing regular summits, who is directly elected by voters in a pan-European vote "on the same day in all member states".

"For Europe to be a truly strong actor and global leader it needs a strong institutional setup," said Mr Westerwelle and Mr Sikorski. "It needs a directly elected president who personally appoints the members of his 'European government'."

The document follows last week's call by Jose Manuel Barroso for the EU to become a "federation" and growing calls in Britain for a referendum on any new European treaty or constitution."...."

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