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Kim vows to 'win victory in the showdown' with U.S.

December 14, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un vowed to 'win victory in the showdown' against the US with his rapidly advancing nuclear arsenal, state media said Wednesday, after the country's latest missile test heightened global tensions.

The nuclear-armed North has rattled the international community with a flurry of nuclear blasts and missile launches, most recently on November 29 when it test-fired its longest-range intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), capable of reaching all major US cities.

Kim told workers behind the latest test that his country would 'victoriously advance and leap as the strongest nuclear power and military power in the world' at a conference on Tuesday, according to state news agency KCNA.

'The... national defence industry will continue to develop and we will win victory in the showdown with the imperialists and the US,' he was indirectly quoted as saying. The country's nuclear force had been completed in a 'death-defying struggle' and despite a high cost, he added..."

Turkey switches to full defiance of US, continues Putin courtship

December 14, 2017 Asia Times Online reported: "On Monday, US National Security Advisor HR McMaster added to tensions in the Middle East when he condemned Turkey and Qatar as prime sponsors of extremist Islamist ideology.

He tore into the Turkish leadership, saying the country's growing problems with the West are largely due to the rise of the Justice and Development Party in Ankara. A few days ago, McMaster had described China and Russia as 'revisionist powers' encroaching on US allies and undermining the international order, and castigated Iran and North Korea as outlaw regimes that 'support terror and are seeking weapons of mass destruction.'

McMaster now rounds on Turkey and Qatar for mentoring a radical Islamist ideology that 'is obviously a grave threat to all civilized people.' The stunning part is that Turkey is a NATO ally, while the US Central Command is headquartered in Qatar.

Ironically, if it was the perceived Soviet threat to Turkey that Harry Truman and Dean Acheson blew out of proportion to lay the ground for an enthusiastically pro-American Turkish prime minister, Adnan Menderes, to bring Turkey into the NATO fold in 1952, 55 years later the blossoming of Russo-Turkish cooperation prompts Washington to doubt Turkey's credentials as an ally.

But then, NATO has no precedents of ousting a member state and its decisions are taken unanimously. To be sure, Erdogan will only leave the NATO tent kicking and screaming. His intent is to shake off US hegemony, which he can do better while inside the NATO tent. He is in turn taunting, provoking, snubbing, defying and – worse still – ridiculing US regional strategies.

Erdogan's talks with Putin on Monday suggest a new stage in their coordination to undermine US interests in the Middle East. Putin announced that they agreed on a loan agreement, which will be signed 'very shortly,' to pursue the 'significant prospects for expanding our military and technical cooperation.'..."

Erdogan threatens to wipe out Jews

December 13, 2017 WND.com reported: "President Obama praised Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as 'a man of action' and one of the five world leaders with whom he had the strongest bond. President Trump met with him at the White House last spring. And certainly Erdogan has tried to portray himself to Western leaders as a pragmatist with whom they can work.

But at a convention of his ruling party Sunday, Erdogan invoked a Muslim hadith — a collection of the accounts and sayings of Muhammad — that made clear his view of Jews and the state of Israel, according to dissident Turkish journalist Abdullah Bozkurt, the Investigative Project on Terrorism reported.

'Those who think they own Jerusalem better know that tomorrow they won't be able to hide behind trees,' Erdogan said, according to Bozkurt. That statement essentially is an affirmation of a prophecy that all Jews will one day be destroyed, the journalist said. Bozkurt explained Erdogan was making 'a veiled threat of killing each and every Jew with a shocking reference to apocalyptic prophecy of tree story.'..."

US urges talks as North Korea brags of nuclear arsenal

December 13, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States is ready to talk to North Korea "without preconditions" but remains determined to force it to abandon its nuclear arsenal, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Tuesday. But even as Washington stressed the importance of a negotiated end to the standoff, Kim Jong-un vowed to make his nation "the strongest nuclear power and military power in the world."

President Donald Trump has promised that Kim will not be allowed to complete his effort to develop nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching mainland US cities. To this end, Tillerson has overseen a global diplomatic effort to isolate Pyongyang and stifle its economy through UN sanctions and, ultimately, the threat of US military force.

In two public appearances Tuesday, he warned that these efforts would continue until "the first bomb drops" and that Washington "simply cannot accept a nuclear-armed North Korea."

But he said the door to talks with Kim's regime was open, and left the opening wider than he had before, backing away from his former insistence that Pyongyang accept in principle to disarm."..."

Erdogan and Putin denounce Trump's Jerusalem decision

December 12, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Monday warned that U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel risks escalating tension in an already tense region.



'Both Russia and Turkey believe that the decision... does not help regulating the situation in the Middle East but instead destabilizes the already complicated atmosphere,' Putin said at a press conference in Ankara with Erdogan, according to a report by the AFP news agency.

'It can derail the Israel-Palestine peace process,' he warned after his meeting with Erdogan following lightning visits to Syria and Egypt earlier on Monday. Erdogan said that he and Putin had taken a similar approach on the issue as he took advantage of the situation to accuse Israel of continuing to 'add fuel to the flames'.

'Israel is using this as an opportunity to further increase the pressure and violence against Palestinians,' he charged. Erdogan has stepped up his anti-Israel rhetoric in recent days in the wake of Trump's announcement on Jerusalem...

Trump's Jerusalem declaration sparks talk of 3rd Temple

December 11, 2017 wnd.com reported: "While Muslims jeer, Israelis cheer President Trump's Jerusalem declaration, prompting Jewish religious activists to suggest building the Third Temple is closer to reality than ever before.



"What he did ... was an enormous step in bringing the Temple," said Asaf Fried, official spokesman for the United Temple Movement, an association of organizations working towards making the Third Temple a reality.

He added, "This necessarily had to come from a non-Jew in order to bring them into the process, so they will be able to take their part in the Temple."

Fried sees Trump's role similar to the one played by Cyrus, the Persian king who ended the Babylonian exile and helped build the Second Jewish Temple.

"There have been amazing advances towards bringing the Temple this year. It was clear that Trump was part of that process, guided by Hashem (God)," Fried declared. He is hardly alone in his jubilation about the possibilities of rebuilding a Temple last destroyed in A.D. 70 – 1,948 years ago.

"The prophets' words of prophecy are coming forth from the Bible and becoming facts right before our eyes," said Likud lawmaker and prominent Temple Mount movement figure Yehuda Glick.

Quoting from the opening words of the book of Lamentations, in a reference to Jerusalem, Glick noted that once Jeremiah had wept, crying "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!"

But the rise of the state of Israel, coupled with Trump's declaration, have now changed all that, Glick suggests: "So, Mister Jeremiah, I'm sending you a WhatsApp: 'Jerusalem is no longer alone like a widow. Jerusalem is recognized as the capital of the Jewish People.'"

Rabbi Hillel Weiss, spokesman for the nascent Sanhedrin, was cautiously optimistic.

"One year ago, the Sanhedrin called on Trump to build the Temple as Cyrus did 2,000 years ago," Weiss said. "He has clearly moved in this direction but there is still a long way to go and many pitfalls that could prevent that from happening. Trump is facing enormous political pressures. The borders of Jerusalem are still open to negotiation. The Temple Mount is still not a settled issue and the United Nations is working hard at trying to convince the world the Jews have no place there. If Trump is to succeed, the Jews have to come together in unity in order for him to remain strong."

Why are evangelicals so thrilled about Trump's Jerusalem declaration? Find out in Joseph Farah's "The Restitution of All Things: Israel, Christians and the End of the Age."

Yakov Hayman, the United Temple Movement chairman, also saw Trump's statement as part of a major shift in modern history for Israel and the Jewish people. He said, "1917 was the Balfour Declaration establishing Israel for the nations, 2017 was Trump's declaration."

"When Jews and non-Jews go up en masse, the Temple is inevitable," Hayman added. "The people of Israel are returning to their roots while simultaneously the non-Jews of the world are realizing the authenticity of our claim to the Temple Mount and our right to build a Jewish Temple as a House of Prayer for All Nations. These processes are codependent. It depends on the Jews, our actions, but the non-Jews are an essential part of the process. Our task is to act as priests to make the whole world holy," Hayman said, citing verse 19:6 in the Book of Exodus: "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."

He added: "That will only happen in a Temple in Jerusalem," he emphasized. "The next step, the most important step, must be taken by the Jews. We need to begin going up to the Temple Mount is massive numbers. Once we do that, the Temple is the next inevitable step."...

Texas imam calls for Israel's destruction – in Arabic

December 10, 2017 World Net Daily reported: "Following President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a Texas-based Islamic cleric has posted a recorded prayer on his Facebook page calling for Israel's destruction, along with 'their allies, and those who assist them and those who allowed them into the abodes of the Muslims.'"

While Sheikh Ramadan Elsabagh does not mention Trump's Wednesday proclamation, the Investigative Project on Terrorism, which translated the message from Arabic, interprets it as a 'clear reaction.'

'Our Lord. Help holy Palestine,' Elsabagh chanted. '... O Allah, be with your oppressed worshipers in Palestine, O Allah destroy the Zionists and their allies, and those who assist them and those who allowed them into the abodes of the Muslims. By your power, O mighty one, O mighty one, through your power and might, O Allah, deflect them with what you will, and however you will, for you are omnipotent, and with a response omnipotent.'..."

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