



PROPHETIC TIMES

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Russia: Shipments of S-400 Missiles to Turkey Likely to Begin in 2020

December 28, 2017 voanews.com reported: "Russia is planning to begin shipments of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to Turkey in March 2020, a senior official says of a deal that has raised eyebrows because Turkey is a NATO member.

Sergei Chemezov, head of the Russian state conglomerate Rostec, told the newspaper Kommersant in an interview published on Wednesday that the \$2.5 billion deal will consist of four batteries of S-400 missiles.

'They are paying 45 percent of the total contract amount as an advance. Fifty-five percent is Russian credit,' Chemezov told Kommersant.

Turkey's move to acquire the S-400s has been regarded in some Western capitals as a snub to the NATO alliance amid tensions with Russia over its role in the wars in Syria and eastern Ukraine.

The S-400 deal, first announced by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in September, has also caused concern because the Russian-made weapons cannot be integrated into the alliance's defenses..."

China Offers Tax Incentives to Persuade U.S. Companies to Stay

December 28, 2017 nytimes.com reported: "China said on Thursday that it would temporarily exempt foreign companies from paying tax on their earnings, a bid to keep American businesses from taking their profits out of China following Washington's overhaul of the United States tax code.

There is, however, a catch: To be eligible, foreign companies must invest those earnings in sectors encouraged by China's government — including railways, mining, technology and agriculture — according to a statement from the Finance Ministry. The measure is retroactive from Jan. 1 this year, the ministry said.

The move would "promote the growth of foreign investment, improve the quality of foreign investment and encourage overseas investors to continuously expand their investment in China," the ministry said. It did not elaborate.

Despite its appeal as a manufacturing hub, one where companies from around the world have set up operations to tap into a highly skilled work force and strong infrastructure, China charges high taxes. On top of a standard corporate rate of 25 percent, companies are required to make social security contributions and other payments that push their tax burden higher than it is in many other countries.

The newly approved tax incentives in the United States could appeal to companies that are frustrated by China's rising labor costs, ambitious local competitors and tangled legal systems, or those that would rather spend their money at home or elsewhere. And officials in Beijing have worried that the overhaul could prove to be a challenge to Chinese laws that aim to keep money from leaving the country's borders."..."

Chinese Economy Projected to Overtake U.S. by 2032

December 27, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "According to research from the Center for Economics and Business Research in London, China will overtake the United States as the world's largest economy by 2032.

'In 2032, three of the four largest economies will be Asian – China, India, and Japan,' Bloomberg News points out, citing CEBR's research.

India will pass the United Kingdom and France next year, and will pass Germany by 2027. South Korea and Indonesia will knock G7 nations Italy and Canada out of the Top Ten list by 2032.

Writing at Bloomberg View in October, Noah Smith argued that China has already surpassed the United States economically and is 'pulling away.' He based this argument on China's superior manufacturing output and the 'purchasing power parity' adjustment, which essentially argues that China's Gross Domestic Product is 'systematically undercounted' because as a developing nation it has much lower prices for many of its goods..."

Netanyahu: Abbas Again Proves Palestinians Are the Ones Who Don't Want Peace

December 26, 2017 Haaretz reported: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has again proved that Palestinians are the ones who do not want to find a solution to the Middle East conflict.

Abbas came out Friday against the American peace initiative and said the Palestinians would not accept any plan made by the Americans due to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a move that was widely rejected by the world in a UN vote Thursday.

In a Christmas letter to Christians, Abbas wrote that the Palestinians will not 'accept any plan from the U.S.' due to the White House's 'biased' support of Israel and its settlement policy. He also said the American plan 'is not going to be based on the two-state solution on the 1967 border, nor is it going to be based on international law or UN resolutions.'

'Abbas declared he was abandoning the peace process and did not care which proposal the United States brings to the table,' Netanyahu said at the weekly cabinet meeting. 'I think that once again, something clear and simple emerges: The Palestinians are the ones who do not want to solve the conflict.'..."

Two more nations to move embassies to Jerusalem

December 26, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Following an announcement Sunday by Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales that his country has begun work to relocate its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the capital of Jerusalem, two more Latin American countries are poised to announce similar plans.



Since President Trump's historic December 6th declaration formally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital city and announcing plans to relocate the US embassy to Jerusalem, several other countries have expressed interest in following suit.

A day after Trump's announcement, Czech President Milos Zeman suggested his country might also relocate its embassy to Jerusalem.

'[President] Trump's decision makes me happy because when I visited Israel four years ago, I said that I would like to transfer the embassy, and that if that happens, we will be the first to do so,' said the Czech president in a television interview.

While the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis later nixed the proposal, the Czech Republic joined with Hungary announced they recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and blocked attempts by the European Union to publish a joint statement of foreign ministers lambasting Trump's December 6th declaration..."

Iranian-backed militias moving closer to Israel

December 25, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syrian army forces, backed by Iranian-backed militias, pushed deeper into the last rebel-held enclave near a strategic border area with Israel and Lebanon on Sunday night, Reuters reported, citing rebels.

The army and the Shiite forces advanced east and south of the Sunni-rebel held bastion of Beit Jin backed by some of the heaviest aerial bombing and heavy artillery shelling since a major assault began over two months ago to seize the area, the rebels said.

The Syrian army said it had encircled the village of Mughr al Meer at the foothills of Mount Hermon as troops moved toward Beit Jin amid fierce clashes.

The enclave is the last rebel bastion left in the south west of Damascus known as the Western Ghouta, that had since last year fallen under government control after months of heavy bombing on civilian areas and years of siege tactics that forced rebels to surrender.

A western intelligence source confirmed rebel reports that Iranian-backed militias including the Hezbollah terrorist group were playing a major role in the ongoing battles.

'The Iranian backed militias are trying to consolidate their sphere of influence all the way from southwest of Damascus to the Israeli border,' said Suhaib al Ruhail, an official from the Liwa al Furqan rebel group that operates in the area, according to Reuters..."

Putin slams 'aggressive' new US defence strategy

December 25, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday described the new defence strategy unveiled by US counterpart Donald Trump as 'aggressive,' saying Moscow would take that into account in its own actions.

But he said that although Russia must strive to develop a new and modern army it would not be drawn into a new arms race or aspire to be a 'world policeman' and instead be creative.

Speaking to an assembly of Russia's top military brass, Putin slammed the National Security Strategy unveiled earlier this week by Donald Trump, and condemned 'offensive' NATO activity in Europe.

'In diplomatic terms, it has an obviously offensive character, and if we were to use military language, it is obviously aggressive,' Putin said of the 'America First' strategy. 'We must take this into account during our practical work.'

'Let's call things by their name, concerning Europe, infrastructure being created there is offensive infrastructure,' he said.

He accused the US of violating the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty dating from 1987 which eliminated all nuclear and conventional missiles with short and intermediate range..."

Report: U.S. Military Training for Ground Invasion to Capture North Korean Nukes

December 23, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "U.S. military forces reportedly began training for a mission involving a ground invasion of North Korea, with the objective of deactivating all their nuclear weapons.

According to military sources who spoke to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, hundreds of U.S. and South Korean soldiers conducted an exercise dubbed 'Warrior Strike,' preparing them to 'infiltrate North Korea and remove weapons of mass destruction in case of conflict.'

Photos published on the unit's Facebook page show armed soldiers training with night vision equipment, gas masks, helicopters and expensive weaponry.

'On December 15, 2017, Bravo Company, 1-5 CAV converged on a subterranean tunnel for training,' a description of the post reads. 'Check out these photos and stay tuned for more coverage of BlackJack soldiers in action.'

The exercises concur with a recent analysis by the Pentagon that determined a ground invasion of North Korea would be the 'only way' to fully disarm the country of its nuclear arsenal.

'The only way to 'locate and destroy—with complete certainty—all components of North Korea's nuclear weapons programs' is through a ground invasion,' wrote Rear Admiral Michael Dumont on behalf of the Pentagon Chiefs of Staff..."

