

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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QUAKE, ROARING SEA, ... NOW PESTILENCES



December 29, 2004 WorldNetDaily reported: "The United Nations warns epidemics will break out within days unless health systems in southern Asia can cope with tens of thousands of corpses and hundreds of thousands left homeless in the wake of the 9.0 quake-induced killer tsunami that struck 11 nations.

"This may be the worst national disaster in recent history because it is affecting so many heavily populated coastal areas, so many vulnerable communities," said the U.N.'s Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland. "The longer term effects may be as devastating as the tsunami itself. Many more people are now affected by polluted drinking water. We could have epidemics within a few days unless we get health systems up and running."

The crisis cuts across all human needs, say experts – water, sanitation, food, shelter and health. "We've had reports already from the south of India of bodies rotting where they have fallen and that will immediately affect the water supply especially for the most impoverished people," said Christian Aid emergency officer Dominic Nutt.

Some affected areas have had communications cut. Others are so remote it is impossible to know the extent of the damage. Governments in all 11 nations hit by the killer waves are still trying to determine how many were killed in the devastation wreaked by Sunday's quake and the tsunamis it caused.

But with relief officials warning of possible cholera epidemics and malaria, Dr. David Nabarro, head of crisis operations for WHO, told reporters in Geneva that "there is certainly a chance that we could have as many dying from communicable diseases as from the tsunami."

Nabarro said the main threat to life now is communicable diseases associated with a lack of clean water and sanitation. "The initial terror associated with the tsunamis and the earthquake itself may be dwarfed by the longer term suffering of the affected communities," Nabarro warned. Hospitals and health services already are overwhelmed and may not be able to cope with people who fall ill with disease, he said..."

QUAKE RATTLED EARTH ORBIT, CHANGED MAP OF ASIA: US GEOPHYSICIST

December 28, 2004 Agency France-Press reported: "An earthquake that unleashed deadly tidal waves on Asia was so powerful it made the Earth wobble on its axis and permanently altered the regional map, US geophysicists said. The 9.0-magnitude temblor that struck 250 kilometers (155 miles) southeast of Sumatra island Sunday may have moved small islands as much as 20 meters (66 feet), according to one expert.

"That earthquake has changed the map," US Geological Survey expert Ken Hudnut told AFP. "Based on seismic modeling, some of the smaller islands off the southwest coast of Sumatra may have moved to the southwest by about 20 meters. That is a lot of slip."

The northwestern tip of the Indonesian territory of Sumatra may also have shifted to the southwest by around 36 meters (120 feet), Hudnut said.

In addition, the energy released as the two sides of the undersea fault slipped against each other made the Earth wobble on its axis, Hudnut said. "We can detect very slight motions of the Earth and I would expect that the Earth wobbled in its orbit when the earthquake occurred due the massive amount of energy exerted and the sudden shift in mass," Hudnut said.

Another USGS research geophysicist agreed that the Earth would have got a "little jog," and that the islands off Sumatra would have been moved by the quake..."

CHINA AND TURKEY DISCUSS DEFENSE COOPERATION

December 30, 2004 Middle East Newsline reported: "China and Turkey have agreed to increase defense and military cooperation.

Turkish officials said Ankara plans to expand defense and military relations with China over the next year. They said the

ties would include training, joint exercises, strategic dialogue and industrial projects.

The two countries agreed on increased defense cooperation during a visit to Beijing by Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul in December. Gonul, hosted by his Chinese counterpart, Tsou Gang Chuan, spent four days in China early this month and was briefed on the nation's defense industry.

"China would like to make joint efforts with Turkey to further develop the army-to-army friendly relations and expand the fields of collaboration," Tsou said..."

ARAB ASTROLOGER PREDICTS BUSH ASSASSINATION

December 29, 2004 WorldNetDaily.com reported: "A Tunisian astrologer who reportedly predicted the deaths of Princess Diana, Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Yasser Arafat says President Bush will be killed by an assassin's bullet in 2005.



So seriously are Hassan al-Sharibi's predictions taken in the Arab world that a similar prophecy about Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Mahmoud Abbas has resulted in increased security around the candidate to replace Arafat as president of the Palestinian Authority. Abbas' aides put a "great deal of credence" in the prediction, according to a source quoted by the Jerusalem Post.

However, the paper tempered its report by saying critics label Sharibi "a quack with flair who relies on logic and wishful thinking. After all, predicting Yassin's assassination – he was Israel's 'public enemy No. 1' – and the death of an already ailing Arafat are hardly major feats."

Soothsaying is not unusual, nor forbidden, in Islam – as it is in Christianity and Judaism. Muslim caliphs relied on court astrologers as early as the eighth century, according to the report in the Jerusalem Post.

Sharibi also predicted the sudden death of Saddam Hussein before his trial begins..."

UN REPORT: WORLD LEADERS MUST FACE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ISSUES

December 29, 2004 Voice of America News reported: "Foreign policy experts say the international community must increase its efforts to curtail the possible spread of nuclear weapons.

A recent United Nations report on global security says the issue of nuclear proliferation is one of the major challenges facing world leaders today. The report paints a stark picture, saying the international community "is approaching a point at which the erosion of the non-proliferation regime could become irreversible and result in a cascade of proliferation".

The report says as of this year, eight countries are known to have nuclear arsenals: the United States, Britain, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel, although not all of them admit it. And, the U.N. document goes on to say almost 60 states currently operate or are constructing nuclear power or research reactors. And at least 40 possess the industrial and scientific infrastructure which would enable them, if they chose, to build nuclear weapons at relatively short notice.

Foreign policy experts say in the months ahead, world leaders will have to deal effectively with two countries, Iran and North Korea, in an effort to curtail the possible spread of nuclear weapons."

IRAQI INSURGENCY STEADILY IMPROVES

December 30, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: "The U.S. military has concluded that the Sunni insurgency has significantly improved over the last few months.

Officials and analysts assert that Saddam Hussein loyalists have succeeded in forming a command and control structure and improved their combat skills in the insurgency war against the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. They said both Sunni and Shi'ite insurgents have also penetrated Iraq's military and security forces.

"The enemy is effective," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. "The enemy's got a brain. The enemy alters its tactics. As things happen on the ground, they see what we do to respond to it. They then change their tactic."

The latest U.S. assessment was voiced in wake of the killing of at least 22 people in a U.S. military base in Mosul on Dec. 22. Officials said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber who wore an Iraq Army uniform and might have fought the U.S. military in Faluja in November..."

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