

# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## NORTH KOREA SAYS IT HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REJECTS TALKS

*February 10, 2005* The New York Times reported: "In a surprising admission, North Korea's hard-line Communist government declared publicly today for the first time that it has nuclear weapons. It also said that it will boycott United States-sponsored regional talks designed to end its nuclear program, according to a North Korean Foreign Ministry statement transmitted today by the nation's wire service.

Pyongyang said it has "manufactured nukes for self-defense to cope with the Bush administration's undisguised policy to isolate and stifle" North Korea, and that it will "bolster its nuclear weapons arsenal." The statement, considered a definitive policy pronouncement, said that North Korea, led by the reclusive dictator Kim Jong Il, is pulling out of the talks after concluding that the second Bush administration would pursue the "brazen-faced, double-dealing tactics" of dialogue and "regime change."

President Bush's chief spokesman, Scott McClellan, said the latest words and actions from North Korea "only deepen their isolation from the international community."..."

## IRAN WILL NEVER GIVE UP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY - KHATAMI

*February 10, 2005* ABC News reported: "No Iranian government, present or future, will give up the country's drive to master peaceful nuclear technology, including uranium enrichment, President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday. In a toughly worded speech to foreign ambassadors in Tehran, Khatami also warned Iran could adopt "a new policy" which would have "massive consequences" if Iran's nuclear talks with the European Union did not prosper.

"We give our guarantee that we will not produce nuclear weapons because we're against them and do not believe they are a source of power. But we will not give up peaceful nuclear technology," Khatami said. "Neither my government nor any other government could be accountable to the nation for compromising over halting this technology," he added.

Iran denies U.S. accusations that it is developing nuclear arms under cover of a civilian atomic energy program. Tehran has suspended key nuclear work, such as uranium enrichment, while it negotiates with the European Union which is offering it trade deals and other incentives if Iran permanently scraps potentially weapons-related nuclear activities.

But Khatami, echoing tough comments by other Iranian officials in recent days, said Iran would never halt enrichment — which can be used to make weapons-grade fuel — and indicated Iran's patience with the EU talks was wearing thin...."

## SYRIA SEEKS S-400 ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM FROM RUSSIA

*February 10, 2005* The Middle East Newslines reported: "Syria has been negotiating the purchase of an advanced anti-missile system from Russia. Russian industry sources President Bashar Assad sought to procure the S-400 anti-missile defense system during his visit to Russia in January. The sources said Assad was briefed on the S-400 but did not sign any agreement. "Assad is very interested in the S-400 and apparently Syria has the money to buy this," an industry source said.

The sources said Russia has sought to sell the S-400 to Iran, Syria and the United Arab Emirates. Russia has touted the S-400 as providing a more effective defense than the US. PAC-3 anti-missile system..."

## PA TV: GOAL IS ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION

*February 9, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: As Israel and the Palestinians agree to a cease-fire setting the stage for peace talks, official Palestinian Authority television continues to communicate the ultimate goal of eliminating the Jewish state. In the official Friday sermon broadcast last week, senior Muslim figure Ibrahim Mudyris explained that the diplomatic process can only achieve a return to the borders Israel had before the 1967 war. The final stage, he said will be the destruction of Israel "the way Muhammad returned there as a conqueror."

Palestinian Media Watch, an Israel-based monitor, said that in its Arabic messages, the Palestinian Authority always has denied Israel's right to exist and often has presented the peace process as a tactic leading to the Jewish state's destruction. That approach was repeated last Friday, Marcus said.

In his sermon, Mudyris declared that all of the land encompassing Israel belongs to Muslims. "We tell you Palestine, we shall return to you, by Allah's will, we shall return to every village, every town, and every grain of earth which was quenched by the blood of our

grandparents and the sweat of our fathers and mothers," he said. "We shall return, we shall return."

"No one on this earth recognizes [our right to] the 1948 borders," he said. "Therefore, we shall return to the 1967 borders, but it does not mean that we have given up on Jerusalem and Haifa, Jaffa, Lod, Ramla, Natanyah [Al-Zuhour] and Tel Aviv [Tel Al-Rabia]. Never...."

### **DOLLY'S CREATOR GRANTED HUMAN CLONING LICENSE**

*February 8, 2005* Reuters reported: "The scientist who created Dolly the sheep, the world's first cloned mammal, was granted a license Tuesday to clone human embryos for medical research. Professor Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, plans to obtain stem cells for research into Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a procedure that divides the medical world along ethical lines.

Britain's cloning watchdog, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), granted the license Tuesday to Wilmut, Dr Paul de Sousa from Edinburgh and Professor Christopher Shaw from King's College London. It is only the second such license granted in Britain.

"Our aim will be to generate stem cells purely for research purposes," Wilmut said in a statement. "This is not reproductive cloning in any way." Human reproductive cloning is illegal in Britain but therapeutic cloning, creating embryos as a source of stem cells to cure diseases, is allowed on an approved basis.

Stem cells are the body's master cells. Those from days-old embryos have the ability to form any kind of tissue and scientists are working to learn how to manipulate them for transplants to treat diseases ranging from diabetes to cancer and MND. The practice has divided the medical world. Opponents argue the use of a human embryo for medical research or even treatment is unethical..."

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### **SOLANA: MILITARY STRIKE ON IRAN WOULD BE A 'MISTAKE'**

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*February 7, 2005* The EUobserver reported: "A military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would be "a mistake" and would enormously complicate the situation, the EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana has warned. Speaking on Britain's ITV television network on Sunday (6 February), Mr Solana said that such unilateral action would be counter-productive.

Asked about US Vice President Dick Cheney's statement last month that Israel might attack Iran's nuclear facilities without warning, EU's foreign policy chief replied, "I think that would be something I would not like to see taking place".

Asked his views on UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw's comments that US military action against Iran is "inconceivable", Mr Solana replied, "I think at this point in time military action ... is very difficult to conceive". "I don't think that the United States has at this point of time the wish or the will or the capability to do that," he continued.

Mr Solana's comments come as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is continuing her first major European and Middle East tour since taking up the job. Last week in London Ms Rice claimed that a strike on Iran was "not on the agenda at this point"..."

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### **NORTH KOREA THREATENS: U.S. BASES 'SEA OF FIRE'**

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*February 5, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: "U.S. military bases will become a "sea of fire" if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula. That's the latest threat from North Korea, while South Korea says close to 700,000 American troops would be sent to the region.

"There are no limitations in the striking power of our armed force. If U.S. imperialists ignite flames of war, we will strike all their bases first and turn them into a sea of fire," North Korean air force officer Huh Ryong told Pyongyang's Central Radio monitored by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

He also said his country would "thoroughly" wipe out those who aid the U.S., implying allies like South Korea and Japan, both of which host U.S. bases. The comments came during an anti-U.S. rally by senior party, government and military officials in Pyongyang on Wednesday.

At the event, premier Pak Pong-Ju urged North Koreans to counter "U.S. moves for aggression with a decisive and merciless military strike," reported Agence France-Presse, accusing the U.S. of seeking to disarm North Korea and bring down its system "at any cost."..."

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