



PROPHETIC TIMES

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GCC WILL FOCUS ON AIR DEFENSE, TRAINING

March 7, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: A Gulf Cooperation Council states are expected to shelve the procurement of major weapons system for the integration and improvement of their armed forces.

Gulf analysts and industry executives said the six Gulf Arab states are not expected to complete a major aircraft or tank purchase until toward the end of this decade. The exception could be Saudi Arabia, which has sought an advanced aircraft to replace its aging F-5E fighter-jet.

Instead, the GCC members will focus efforts to develop their military in the field of missiles, command and control, air defense and training, the analysts said. The effort will include both procurement projects by individual states as well as GCC regional programs.

The analysts said that every GCC state has begun streamlining or delaying major procurement projects. In 2003, they said, Saudi Arabia delayed plans for a new fighter-jet, Kuwait shelved a program to purchase the F/A-18E/F and the United Arab Emirates reduced the scope of its Al Baynuna multi-role corvette project.≡

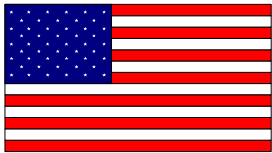
U.S. FIGHTS ON SHI'ITE, SUNNI FRONTS

April 7, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: AThe U.S. military faces a two-front insurgency war in Iraq. U.S. and coalition troops have been fighting Sunni and Shi'ite militias in central and southern Iraq in the most intense battles since the war in April 2003. Over the last two days, about a dozen U.S. marines have been killed in clashes in such cities as Faluja, Karbala, Nasseriya and Ramadi.

U.S. officials said they don't believe the Sunni and Shi'ite rebellions are connected. But they report that U.S. and coalition troops have been besieged by combatants from both rival ethnic groups, who have targeted military bases, government installations and police stations.

In Ramadi, scores of Sunnis attacked a U.S. Marine Corps position, incurring heavy casualties. In Faluja, the marines, backed by fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, fought fiercely on Tuesday before withdrawing from the city under heavy insurgency rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire.≡

MUBARAK BRINGS LONG SHOPPING LIST TO U.S.



April 6, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: AEgypt has presented the United States with a long shopping list of advanced airborne, naval and ground-based weapons. U.S. officials and congressional sources said the regime of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has submitted a list of weapons sought for procurement by Cairo over the next five years. They focused on weapons long denied to Egypt and part of Mubarak's plans to establish a rapid-



response force for missions throughout the Middle East.

"Mubarak has told the Bush administration that Egypt needs a rapid-response force to ensure stability in the Middle East," an official said. "Such a force would be able to protect Egypt's interests in such a neighboring country as Sudan and in far-off states as Saudi Arabia."

The Egyptian weapons list -- to be discussed during Mubarak's April 12 meeting with President George Bush in Crawford, Texas, -- has focused on airborne precision-strike weapons. Officials said Egypt also seeks such platforms as the C-130J air transport, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, and the AH-64D Apache Longbow attack helicopter.≡

DEFENSE MINISTERS MEET IN BRUSSELS

April 5, 2004 The EUobserver reported: AEU defence ministers will meet today (5 April) to discuss plans to set up an EU military planning cell. The idea, agreed in principle last year, will be on the agenda as ministers meet >informally= in Brussels to sketch out some of the details of the plan.

Initially made up of 20 or so planners, the unit will be tasked with preparing EU peacekeeping, crisis management and humanitarian operations. Talks will no doubt focus on the mandate of the group and its key goals. Ministers will also discuss plans to create a set of EU battle groups that would be able to conduct operations in a series of environments.

Foreign Ministers last month agreed to take up the plan, asking the Irish Presidency to produce a report by June. The plan is expected to mirror a previous plan, tabled by France, Germany and the UK. The EU's big three proposed seven >battle groups= be set up of 1,500 troops, each able to fight in a different environment. The groups should be ready for action at 15 days notice and be able to stay in the field for 30 days.

It is likely that the groups will act as a standing force for UN operations, but will also be able to take up the EU's own missions. Ministers will also discuss the takeover of NATO's SFOR mission in Bosnia, which the EU looks set to take on late this year.≡

FBI WARNS OF BOMB PLOTS TARGETING MAJOR US CITIES

April 02, 2004 Voice of America reported: [A](#)The FBI is warning U.S. law enforcement agencies of an alleged plot to bomb buses and railways in major U.S. cities later this year. In a bulletin sent out late Thursday, the bureau said terrorists could try to hide explosives in luggage such as backpacks and duffel bags. The bulletin cites uncorroborated evidence that the bombs could be made of diesel fuel and ammonium nitrate fertilizer, similar to what was used to blow up a U.S. government building in Oklahoma City nine years ago.

The bulletin says al-Qaida and other groups have the intent and capability to carry out such attacks, and takes note of the train bombings in Madrid last month that killed some 200 people.

In a separate bulletin sent to law enforcement agencies on Wednesday, the FBI said terrorists may attempt to enter the United States using cultural, arts, or sports visas, known as P-Visas. It says recent intelligence indicates that terrorist groups may want to exploit the State Department's P-Visa program to place operatives on U.S. soil.

Meanwhile, news media in the United States and Germany say al-Qaida has published a directive ordering supporters to target Jews, Christians, and Americans, among others. NBC News in the United States and Germany's ZDF television reported Friday, the declaration calls on al-Qaida members to "turn the countries of blasphemers into war zones."

The 50-page document has been posted on the Internet and is signed by Abdulaziz al-Mukrin, whom both media identified as an al-Qaida leader in the Arab world. ZDF says German and U.S. intelligence officials consider the strategy paper authentic.

The paper says Jews should be the primary target, followed by Christians, Americans, Britons, Spaniards, Australians, Canadians, and Italians. It also says terrorists should focus on businessmen, diplomats, politicians, intellectuals, scientists, rabbis, missionaries, and tourists.≡

EU TO ISRAEL DON=T KILL TERRORISTS, OR ELSE

April 02, 2004 Jerusalem Newswire reported: [A](#)European lawmakers Thursday accused Israel of perpetrating state terrorism, and threatened to suspend the current Israel-EU trade agreement if any more "Palestinian" terrorist leaders were vaporized by IAF helicopter gun ships.

A resolution presented to the European Parliament called for the immediate suspension of Israel's Association Agreement in response to the execution of blood-soaked Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin. It failed to gain majority support.

Two compromise articles were passed, however, the first of which called on the body to fully suspend the trade agreement, which elevates Israel's trade status with Europe, should Jerusalem carry out any more "extra-judicial" killings. The second accused Israel of engaging in "acts of terror" by launching anti-terror military operations that on occasion result in collateral damage among the largely terror-supporting "Palestinian" population.

And in a bizarre twist, Europe absolved itself of any culpability in "Palestinian" terror, claiming there was absolutely no evidence any of the millions of dollars it had given PLO chief Yasser Arafat had found their way into the pockets of terrorists. One Israeli minister said the evidence tells a contrary story.

The second of the two articles passed Thursday called on the European "Council and Commission to consider acting in full compliance of article 2 of the association agreement with Israel in case of continuation of the policy of extra-judicial killing."

In other words, if Israel kills any more "Palestinian" terror chiefs, Europe will curb trade relations with the Jewish state...≡