

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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IRAN VOWS REGIONAL INTERVENTION

November 2, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "Iran has warned that it plans to intervene in the Middle East, including in the affairs of such neighbors as Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the first such high-level assertion, a leading Islamic military commander has placed the United States on notice that Iran reserves the right to intervene in the Middle East, Gulf and Central Asia. The commander said Iran would also seek to control events across the border in neighboring Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Iran is in the center of three strategic and sensitive regions -- the Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus ," Maj. Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said. "The Islamic republic, for this reason, can play a decisive role in regional political, economic, cultural and security arrangements."

Safavi outlined Iran's sphere of influence in an address designed to challenge U.S. policy. The IRGC commander said the United States must recognize Iran 's dominant role in the Gulf and warned that it would not be ignored in major regional developments..."

U.S. REPORTS MAJOR INCREASE IN IED BLAST

November 3, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "The U.S. military has determined that Sunni insurgents have vastly improved the lethality of their bombs.

U.S. officials said the military has assessed that the improvised explosive devices used by Sunni insurgents have four times the blast impact as those deployed in 2004. They said insurgents have been aided by Iranian and Hizbullah experts to assemble precision shaped charges, designed to focus a blast on a small area and capable of penetrating most U.S. military ground vehicles.

"We see an adversary that continues to develop some sophistication on very deadly and increasingly precise stand-off type weapons -- IEDs, in particular," Defense Department spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said.

As a result, 61 percent of all U.S. fatalities in Iraq stem from the new IEDs. Officials said the IEDs were often comprised of Iranian-origin TNT, said to be up to seven times stronger than that produced in Iraq ..."

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WARNS OF TERROR THREAT

November 2, 2005 VOA News reported: "Australian Prime Minister John Howard says his government has received information about a specific terror threat against the country. Mr. Howard told a news conference Wednesday, the government received information this week that caused "serious concern." He would not provide details.

The prime minister said he would try to push new anti-terror legislation through parliament Wednesday, to help law enforcement agencies fight the threat.

Counter-terrorism laws under consideration in Australia would allow suspects to be electronically watched or held in custody for up to 14 days without charge. They would also create tighter checks on citizenship applicants and authorize jail terms for inciting violence.

Rights organizations have criticized the measures, saying they threaten civil liberties and violate international law..."

U.S. DISCUSSES INVASION OF SAUDI ARABIA

November 2, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "The United States has raised the prospect of a military invasion of Saudi Arabia.

The response could include the deployment of three U.S. Army divisions backed by fighter-jets and airborne early-warning and alert aircraft. In all, the U.S.-led mission could include up to 300,000 troops.

The House Armed Services Committee was briefed on the prospect of a Saudi coup and U.S. response during a hearing on Oct. 26. The scenario was outlined by Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow of the Brookings Institution, who cited a Saudi coup as one of several threats to the United States.

"How should the United States respond if a coup, presumably fundamentalist in nature, overthrows the royal family in Saudi Arabia?" O'Hanlon asked. "Such a result would raise the specter of major disruption to the oil economy..."

IRAN SAYS NOT AFRAID OF WAR, SANCTIONS

November 1, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "Iran is unfazed by the threat of war or sanctions over its disputed nuclear programme and mounting international pressure has only hardened its resolve, a senior official said Monday.

"They must understand that such an attitude will only persuade us more to have nuclear technology," said top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, responding to widespread condemnation of comments by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Iran has been the focus of an international outcry after Ahmadinejad last week called for Israel to be "wiped off the map". The storm has also raised concerns over the country's bid to master sensitive nuclear fuel technology.

"There won't be a war. They do not have the means to go to war on two fronts," Larijani was quoted as saying by the student news agency ISNA in a reference to the continued hostilities faced by US-led forces in neighbouring Iraq.

"Iran is a hard target," insisted Larijani, who was addressing a seminar on nuclear energy. "If they think they can limit us by oil sanctions or other sanctions, they are wrong. Oil sanctions will only increase the price of oil," he warned.

Iran says it only wants to develop nuclear power for electricity generation, but the United States and European Union fear Iran is using the fuel cycle as a means to acquire atomic weapons..."

"Iran has not concealed anything," Larijani insisted. "We agree that the agency can conduct any kind of inspection to make sure that Iran is not deviating from peaceful nuclear technology."

The IAEA's probe has found evidence of suspect activities but no "smoking gun" that proves a weapons drive.

However diplomats at IAEA headquarters in Vienna say the agency still wants more information on Iran's dealings with an international smuggling network run by the now disgraced father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

The IAEA also wants more information on centrifuges, as well as access to the Lavizan and Parchin plants where nuclear weapons-related work is suspected.

In addition, the agency was reported to be seeking to clear up questions about possible work in adapting missiles to carry warheads that could be designed to carry nuclear weapons."

SUPERCOMPUTER DOUBLES OWN RECORD

October 30, 2005 BBC News reported: "The Blue Gene/L supercomputer has broken its own record to achieve more than double the number of calculations it can do a second. It reached 280.6 teraflops - that is 280.6 trillion calculations a second.

The IBM machine, at the US Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, officially became the most powerful computer on the planet in June.

The fastest supercomputers in the world are ranked by experts every six months in the Top 500 list. Blue Gene's performance, while it has been under construction, has quadrupled in just 12 months.

Each person in the world with a handheld calculator would still take decades to do the same calculations Blue Gene is now able to do every second..."

IRAN SENDS FIRST SATELLITE INTO ORBIT

October 30, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Iran has sent its first satellite into space in a move expected to provide the Islamic republic with reconnaissance capabilities over Israel and the rest of the Middle East.

On Thursday, a Kosmos-3M booster rocket launched an Iranian satellite as well as six other foreign satellites from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwestern Russia. The launch of Iran's Sina-1 satellite was deemed a success. "All of them [foreign satellites] have been successfully placed in the prescribed orbits and their control transferred to the customers," an official was quoted by the Moscow-based Itar-Tass news agency as saying on Friday..."

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