



PROPHETIC TIMES

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NORTH KOREA BOOSTS NUKE MAKING POTENTIAL

December 8, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "North Korea is increasing its industrial capabilities to make nuclear weapons. The continued operation of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor without international inspectors' supervision and successful tests of a new solid-fuel rocket engine have enabled the so-called Hermit Kingdom to make further progress toward being able to produce and deliver such weapons, Arms Control Today reported in its December issue.

Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, provided new details about North Korea's nuclear program during a Nov. 8 presentation in Washington, D.C., the journal said. Hecker visited North Korea in August of this year as well as in January 2004. He said North Korea has been able to produce enough plutonium for six to eight nuclear weapons since resuming operations at Yongbyon in early 2003.

The U.S. intelligence community has assessed that Pyongyang acquired enough plutonium for one or two nuclear weapons before freezing operations of its nuclear facilities under the 1994 Agreed Framework.

Under that bilateral agreement with the United States, North Korea agreed to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor the freeze, which included its five-megawatt graphite-moderated nuclear reactor and related facilities, as well as approximately 8,000 spent fuel rods. But after the most recent North Korean nuclear crisis started in October 2002, Pyongyang ejected the inspectors, announced its withdrawal from the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, restarted the reactor, and claimed to have reprocessed the spent fuel to obtain plutonium for nuclear weapons..."

IRAN WARNS ISRAEL AFTER NETANYAHU ATTACK THREAT

December 6, 2005 Agence France-Presse reported: "Iran on Monday warned Israel of "heavy consequences" if its nuclear installations were attacked by the Jewish state, after a former Israeli premier suggested Israel should take an aggressive stance toward Iran.

"The Islamic republic is a tough target and there would be heavy consequences," said Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

He was speaking after former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel needed to "act in the spirit" of the late premier Menachem Begin, who ordered an air strike on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981. "I view the development of the Iranian nuclear (programme) as a paramount threat and as a real danger to the future of the state of Israel," Netanyahu told the Yediot Aharonot newspaper. "Israel needs to do everything to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear threat against it," said Netanyahu.

But Larijani said Iran, which maintains its nuclear programme is peaceful, was not afraid of an attack. "Comparing Iran and Iraq is an error, because Iran is not an easy target. You should not pay attention to such rude comments by Israeli officials," he told a news conference

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi also said Iran's response to such an attack would be "devastating and unbearable".

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Netanyahu's arch rival, said last week that Israel would never allow its arch-enemy Iran to come into possession of nuclear weapons.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad caused an international backlash in October when he called for the Jewish state to be "wiped off the map"..."

CONGRESS STARTS TO WORRY OVER KURDS

December 8, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Congress has begun to express concern over the U.S. alliance with the Kurdish community in Iraq. Leading members of Congress said the U.S. alliance with the Iraqi Kurds has advanced their goal of a separate state next to Turkey. They said the Kurds were seeking to gain control over the vast crude oil reserves around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk in an effort to guarantee revenues for any future state. [See story in Middle East Energy section.]

Some in Congress envision a scenario in which Turkey's large Kurdish minority would seek to join any Iraqi Kurdish state. Turkey has been a major NATO ally, and House and Senate leaders have sought to renew the close U.S. ties with Ankara disrupted by the war in Iraq .

"If they [Kurds] had the oil from Kirkuk, for example, this might be enticing once again to those in Turkey who wish to join with them, or those in Iran or anywhere else who want to become a greater Kurdistan," Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Richard Lugar said..."

ISRAELIS TO BE ALLOWED EUTHANASIA BY MACHINE

December 8, 2005 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Machines will perform euthanasia on terminally ill patients in Israel under legislation devised not to offend Jewish law, which forbids people taking human life. A special timer will be fitted to a patient's respirator which will sound an alarm 12 hours before turning it off.

Normally, carers would override the alarm and keep the respirator turned on but, if various stringent conditions are met, including the giving of consent by the patient or legal guardian, the alarm would not be overridden.

Similar timing devices, known as Sabbath clocks, are used in the homes of orthodox Jews so that light switches and electrical devices can be turned on during the Sabbath without offending religious strictures.

Parliamentarians reached a solution after discussions with a 58-member panel of medical, religious and philosophical experts.

"The point was that it is wrong, under Jewish law, for a person's life to be taken by a person but, for a machine, it is acceptable," a parliamentary spokesman said. "A man would not be able to shorten human life but a machine can."

The bill, which was approved at the third and final reading in the Knesset by 22 votes to three with one abstention, will become law next year.

Danny Naveh, the health minister, described the passing of the law as a historic moment, saying: "This is one of the most important laws passed by the Knesset. It represents major moral value for the terminally ill and their families."..."

RUSSIA DEVELOPING NEW GENERATION OF SUPER MISSILES

December 5, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "Almost ignored by the mainstream U.S. media, the strategic nuclear arms race between the United States and Russia has revived -- with spending and weapons development at an intensity unseen since the days of the SS-18 and Pershing II deployments a quarter of a century ago.

On Nov. 17, as reported by United Press International, the U.S. Navy successfully carried out its most ambitious and successful test yet of an anti-ballistic missile interceptor launched from an Aegis class cruiser in the Pacific Ocean. The success of the test contrasted sharply with the enormous delays, cost over-runs and major test failures that have plagued the land-based anti-missile technology deployed by the Missile Defense Agency around Fort Greely, Alaska.

But meanwhile, Russia continues to push ahead with its most massive intercontinental ballistic missile testing and upgrading program since the collapse of communism. Flush with oil export revenues, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been pouring resources into his Strategic Missile Forces to upgrade the land-mobile SS-27 Topol-M and submarine-launched Bulova ICBMs and make them maneuverable and impervious to America's still untried new anti-missile defense systems.

"You would think the Cold War never ended," analyst James Hackett wrote in the Washington Times Nov. 14..."

RUSSIA CONFIRMS SAM SALE TO IRAN

December 7, 2005 Middle East Newslines reported: "Russia has confirmed that it has signed an agreement for the sale of anti-aircraft systems to Iran. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Moscow and Teheran have signed a contract for the sale of the TOR-M1 short-range air defense systems to Iran. Ivanov said the TOR-M1 was a defensive weapon that would not significantly bolster Iran's military capabilities.

"A contract for the delivery of air defense TOR missiles to Iran has indeed been signed," Ivanov said on Monday. "This unequivocally will not change the balance of forces in the region."

Ivanov did not provide details of the TOR-M1 contract. Russian media said the contract called for the supply of up to 30 systems in a \$700 million sale to Teheran. Iran has also confirmed the project.

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