

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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SUPREME COURT IN CANADA BACKS GAY MARRIAGE

December 9, 2004 The New York Times reported: "The Supreme Court said today that it condoned efforts by the federal government to introduce legislation redefining marriage nationwide to include same-sex couples, but it stopped short of ruling that the traditional definition of marriage was unconstitutional.

The decision was largely symbolic because the high courts of six provinces and one territory, representing 85 percent of the population, have already ruled that the traditional definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman was discriminatory and unconstitutional. But the 9-to-0 decision will help push legislation in favor of same-sex marriage rights across Canada.

A decision by the Ontario high court in June 2003 made Canada the third country after Belgium and the Netherlands to permit gays and lesbians to marry. More than 3,000 same-sex couples have married in Canada since then, including many American couples..."

ABBAS: WE WILL RULE PALESTINE FROM JERUSALEM

December 9, 2004 Jerusalem Newswire Editorial Staff reported: "PLO chief Mahmoud Abbas Sunday reiterated his pledge to pursue Yasser Arafat's goal of seizing control over eastern Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian Arab state. Throughout the "peace" process, sovereignty over the ancient Jewish capital has been a red line issue for Israel.

Abbas also said that, after a ten-year delay, the PA would finally fulfill its obligations under the "Oslo" agreements. Meanwhile, the Hamas terrorist organization rejected reports it was prepared to accept a ceasefire and recognize Israel's right to exist within the Jewish state's pre-1967 borders.

"The true fealty to Arafat's memory would be to pursue his path to achieve Palestinian national goals, namely the establishment of a democratic state, with Jerusalem as its capital, that would live in peace and security next to Israel," Abbas told reporters in Ramallah Sunday after meeting with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

During the past decade, Arafat vowed on numerous occasions to "march on Jerusalem with one million martyrs" in order to wrest the city from Israeli control. Israel has declared Jerusalem its "eternal, undivided" capital, and has made sovereignty over the city a red line in its peace negotiations with the "Palestinians."

When former Prime Minister Ehud Barak put Jerusalem on the trading block in 2000, nearly half a million Israeli Jews converged on the city in a mass demonstration against the change in policy. While Jerusalem was for thousands of years the capital of Israel, it has never served as the capital of a sovereign Arab entity..."

MEMBERS OF REESTABLISHED SANHEDRIN ASCEND TEMPLE MOUNT

December 9, 2004 Arutz Sheva - Israel reported: "In a dramatic but unpublicized move, members of the newly established Sanhedrin ascended the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site, this past Monday. Close to 50 recently ordained s'muchim, members of the Sanhedrin, lined up at the foot of the Temple Mount Monday morning. [The word s'muchim comes from the same root as s'michah, , rabbinic ordination.]

The men, many ascending the Temple Mount for the first time, had immersed in mikvaot (ritual baths) that morning, and planned to ascend as a group. Despite prior approval from the Israeli police who oversee entry to the Mount, the officers barred the group from entering the Mount all together, and allowed them to visit only in groups of ten.

Given the newly-mandated restrictive conditions, many of the s'muchim refused to ascend at all, especially as a group of over 100 non-Jewish tourists filed past the waiting rabbis and up towards the holy site. "It is unconscionable that on the eve of Chanukah, which celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple, we should once again be barred from worshipping – by our own people," Rabbi Chaim Richman of Jerusalem's Temple Institute told IsraelINN's Ezra HaLevi. The Sanhedrin, a religious-legal assembly of 71 sages that convened during the Holy Temple period and for several centuries afterwards, was the highest Jewish judicial tribunal in the Land of Israel. The great court used to convene in

one of the Temple's chambers in Jerusalem.

This past October, the Sanhedrin was reestablished for the first time in 1,600 years, at the site of its last meeting in Tiberias..."

PAKISTAN TEST FIRES MEDIUM RANGE NUCLEAR-CAPABLE MISSILE

December 8, 2004 Agency France-Presse reported: "Pakistan successfully test fired a medium range nuclear-capable ballistic missile, capable of hitting targets deep inside rival India, the military said. The Hatf-IV (Shaheen-1) missile which can hit targets up to 700 kilometers (437 miles) away was launched from an undisclosed location, a military spokesman told AFP.

The test was Pakistan's second in 10 days. Pakistan and rival India, who carried out tit-for-tat nuclear detonations in 1998, both conduct regular missile launches.

"Pakistan today carried out a successful test fire of its indigenously developed, medium range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hatf-IV (Shaheen-1)," the military said in a statement. The test was to validate "additional technical parameters" of the missile, which is already part of Pakistan's military inventory.

Foreign office spokesman Masood Khan said the launch was not meant to send any message to India. The two countries are engaged in a peace dialogue aimed at resolving all issues including the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir..."

IRAN LAUNCHES BIGGEST GROUND EXERCISE EVER

December 7, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: "Iran has launched what officials termed its largest military exercise ever.

Officials said the Iran Army began the exercise on Dec. 3 in western Iran near the border with Iraq. They said the aim of the exercise was to demonstrate ground force capabilities and weaponry in an effort to deter any attack from the United States.

The exercise was said to have tested a range of indigenous missiles, rockets, armored personnel carriers, main battle tanks and unmanned aerial vehicles developed over the last decade. Officials said many of these weapons and platforms were introduced into service over the last two years.

Officials said the exercise included 10 infantry divisions as well as artillery, missile and electronic warfare units. They said the air force was providing support for ground units as part of a demonstration of the interoperability between the services..."

CHINA PLANS MORE THAN 100 EYES IN THE SKY

December 7, 2004 MSNBC reports: "China plans to launch more than 100 satellites before 2020 to watch every corner of the country, state-run China Central Television quoted a government official as saying on Tuesday.

A "large surveying network" would be set up to monitor water reserves, forests, farmland, city construction and "various activities of society," a government official said, without elaborating.

1. "The aim is that, at any time and any place, we can obtain necessary data on any event through watching the Earth from space," said Shao Liqin, an official with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

China regularly sends research satellites into orbit, and in October last year became the third nation successfully to put a man in space when a single astronaut orbited Earth 14 times.

Last month, the retrievable chamber of China's 20th recoverable satellite returned to Earth with a bang, crashing through the roof of a house..."

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