

PROPHETIC TIMES

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IRAN'S AHMADINEJAD TARGETS 'CORRUPT WORLD LEADERSHIP'

April 10, 2008 SpaceWar.com reported: "President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday set Iran the target of wiping out the "corrupt world leadership," in his latest verbal attack on Western powers locked in a nuclear crisis with Tehran. "The Iranian nation will not give up until the corrupt leadership in the world has been obliterated," Ahmadinejad said in the Shiite holy city of Mashhad, northeast Iran, quoted by the Fars news agency.

"Our foes should know that threats, sanctions, and political and economic pressures can not force our nation to back down," he added. Ahmadinejad outlined two goals for the Islamic republic and its people. "We have two missions, to build Islamic Iran and to exert an effort to change the leadership in the world. We have to carry out both (missions) as well as we can," he said.

The hardline president also renewed his defiance of United Nations demands for Iran to halt sensitive nuclear work.

"The resolutions which are adopted against Iran are ... scraps of papers. The Iranians are a peace-loving people of dialogue in fair circumstances, but they will not discuss their rights," he said. Ahmadinejad on Wednesday vowed Iran would not halt its nuclear drive in the face of pressure from the West.

The United States this week warned Iran it risked further isolation and new international sanctions after refusing to comply with UN Security Council resolutions over its disputed nuclear programme. On Tuesday, Ahmadinejad announced Iran has started the installation of 6,000 new centrifuges to enrich uranium at its main nuclear plant in Natanz, prompting expressions of anger and concern from Western countries.

The West fears Iran could use enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon, and Tehran's refusal to suspend the process has been punished with three sets of Security Council sanctions and US pressure on its banking system."..."

HOME-GROWN TERRORISM RISING IN EU, EUROPOL SAYS

April 08, 2008 EU Observer reported: "The number of arrests connected to terrorism doubled in the European Union in 2007, while the overwhelming majority of attacks carried out in its territory were linked to separatism, the EU's police office, Europol, said in a report released on Monday (7 April).

Last year, EU member states reported to Europol a total number of 583 attacks and 1044 arrested suspects - something that amounts to a 24 percent and a 48 percent increase respectively compared to 2006. However, 89 percent of all reported attacks were related to separatist violence in Spain and France. Only four were related to militant Islam.

The number of detained Muslim extremists suspected of violence dropped from 257 in 2006 to 201 in 2007, while home-made explosives continue to be their most popular tool. Despite an apparent decrease, several EU states say that the threat of Islamic radicalism "has either increased or at least remains high".

According to the director of Europol, Max-Peter Ratzel, the threat is "partly" rooted in Pakistan-based groups linked to Al-Qaida. EU nationals continue to be recruited mainly for activities in Afghanistan and Iraq, although Somalia is also becoming a new destination for jihadists.

"Al-Qaida is still and will continue to dominate international terrorism for years to come," said EU anti-terrorism chief, Gilles de Kerchove, while also referring to cases outside the EU, when EU citizens were killed or kidnapped in Northern Africa.

Out of the total 1044 arrested last year, the vast majority were EU citizens suspected of membership in a militant organisation. In cases of Islamic extremism, the would-be attackers appear to increasingly have been born in the union's territory and having EU citizenship.

"This might indicate an increased number of home-grown terrorists throughout the European Union," the Europol chief concluded. Mr Ratzel was addressing MEPs as new guidelines for combating militant attacks tabled by the European Commission are being discussed by EU institutions.

The document, aimed at updating current rules dating from 2002, foresees public provocation to commit acts of political violence, recruitment as well as training for such acts as part of the list of EU-wide terror offences.

However, the chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Dick Marty, told MEPs that there was "an obvious danger which makes it possible for governments to easily criminalise any type of opposition".

He insisted that the so-called safeguard clause is strengthened in the draft guidelines."..."

CHINA CONFIRMS DECEMBER CASE OF HUMAN TO HUMAN BIRD FLU TRANSMISSION

April 08, 2008 VOA News reported: "Chinese health officials have confirmed earlier speculation that a father contracted bird flu from his son last December. Researchers from Beijing's Chinese Center for Disease Control said a 24-year-old man spread the disease to his 52-year-old father in China's eastern province of Jiangsu. The son died, but the father survived.



In a report released Tuesday, the researchers said tests showed the two men were infected with almost genetically identical strains of the H5N1 virus. They also found that 91 people who had come into close contact with the men had not been infected with the virus.

Cases of human-to-human transmission of the virus are rare, but another case from December was confirmed in Pakistan last week. Most people who contract the virus have come into contact with infected birds.

On Monday, officials in South Korea and China confirmed fresh outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of bird flu. South Korean officials said the latest cases of the H5N1 strain of bird flu were found in ducks at a farm in Jeongeup, a city about 250 kilometers south of the capital, Seoul. A separate outbreak was reported earlier at a chicken farm 30 kilometers away.

Also Monday, Chinese officials confirmed an outbreak of the H5N1 strain of bird flu on a farm in the remote region of Tibet has killed about 268 chickens.

Bird flu tends to be more active in lower temperatures and since the start of this year, China has confirmed three human deaths from the disease and several outbreaks among poultry.

The World Health Organization says 238 people around the world have died from bird flu since 2003. Indonesia reported two deaths last week, raising the country's confirmed death toll to 107."

SYRIAN OFFICIAL: WE'RE PREPARED FOR WAR

April 08, 2008 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's messages of reassurance to assuage Syrian fears over Israel's nationwide drill did not succeed in curbing the rhetoric coming out of Damascus on Tuesday.

A senior Syrian official said Tuesday that Syria would be prepared for all possible scenarios as soon as the "language of understanding" with Israel over the peace process ended.



"When the language of understanding with Israel regarding the peace process comes to an end, Syria will be prepared for any possibility," Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said in an interview with the government-controlled *Al-Thawra* newspaper. "The Israelis aren't aware that we know that every war has its own path? The more Israel tries to generate this centralized atmosphere in order to reap benefit from the July downfall [the Second Lebanon War], [Syria] cannot but also draw plans in advance of a conflict."



Mekdad went on to say that the drill was meant to rehabilitate the IDF's deterrence capability - which he claimed was lost in the Second Lebanon War - restore the confidence of the Israeli public in the army and generate an atmosphere of readiness among the ranks of the military.

"If Syria is the target of all of this, know that we are following the drill and are also developing our capabilities and our plans to face the Israeli maneuvers," he warned.

Olmert and his associates reiterated Tuesday that Syria should have nothing to worry about. "We don't expect anything to happen [with Syria]," Olmert said on a tour of IDF Central Command. "We are not worried that they want something to happen. I think they know it would not be a good thing for something to develop in the North. They know what our abilities are, and that's why I think reports of tension are exaggerated."..."

NEW ANTI-TERROR WEAPON: HAND-HELD LIE DETECTOR

April 08, 2008 Msnbc.com reported: "The Pentagon will issue hand-held lie detectors this month to U.S. Army soldiers in Afghanistan, pushing to the battlefield a century-old debate over the accuracy of the polygraph.

The Defense Department says the portable device isn't perfect, but is accurate enough to save American lives by screening local police officers, interpreters and allied forces for access to U.S. military bases, and by helping narrow the list of suspects after a roadside bombing. The device has already been tried in Iraq and is expected to be deployed there as well. "We're not promising perfection — we've been very careful in that," said Donald Krapohl, special assistant to the director at the Defense Academy for Credibility Assessment, the midwife for the new device. "What we are promising is that, if it's properly used, it will improve over what they are currently doing."

But the lead author of a national study of the polygraph says that American military men and women will be put at risk by an untested technology. "I don't understand how anybody could think that this is ready for deployment," said statistics professor Stephen E. Fienberg, who headed a 2003 study by the National Academy of Sciences that found insufficient scientific evidence to support using polygraphs for national security. "Sending these instruments into the field in Iraq and Afghanistan without serious scientific assessment, and for use by untrained personnel, is a mockery of what we advocated in our report."

The new device, known by the acronym PCASS, for Preliminary Credibility Assessment Screening System, uses a commercial TDS Ranger hand-held personal digital assistant with three wires connected to sensors attached to the hand. An interpreter will ask a series of 20 or so questions in Persian, Arabic or Pashto: "Do you intend to answer my questions truthfully?" "Are the lights on in this room" "Are you a member of the Taliban?" The operator will punch in each answer and, after a delay of a minute or so for processing, the screen will display the results: "Green," if it thinks the person has told the truth, "Red" for deception, and "Yellow" if it can't decide."..."