

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

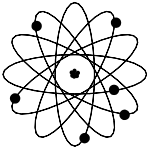
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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MOFAZ IN YALE: ALL'S FAIR IN FIGHT AGAINST IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

May 1, 2008 Ynet.news.com reported: "Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz spoke at Yale University on Wednesday. In his speech he linked the Nazi atrocities to the Iranian threat: "

Israel will not tolerate a nuclear Iran; and I'd like to believe that the rest of the world will not allow it to happen. All is fair in the efforts to make sure it doesn't happen."



Mofaz arrived in the US as the minister charged with Israel's strategic dialogue with the US. The transportation minister held several meetings with US officials regarding the Iranian threat, including one with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Israel is marking the Holocaust Remembrance Day," he told his Yale crowd. "We've all learned that history can sometimes repeat itself. This time we have the responsibility to make sure history will never, ever repeat itself.

"The Iranian regime is the number one threat to mankind in the 21st century. It is a multi-dimensional, multi-armed threat, which increases every day, every hour."

Taking the diplomatic route at this time is the best thing to do, he said, "But we must set two timetables – one for rating the Iranian progress and the other to rate the effects of the sanctions. Should those two prove mutually exclusive, we mustn't exclude any of our options.

"We have to be ready for any scenario," he continued. "This is a historical time in human history, in the life of a nation, of a people. The Jewish people know this better than everyone. No leader will be able to say, 'We didn't know, we didn't understand.' This time the entire world, and Israel in it, will have to take the initiative and do whatever it takes to make sure the next generations will enjoy a future of peace and prosperity."

Time is running out, he warned his audience, and the sanctions must be enforced: "Appeasement has not proved an efficient policy and in the Middle East it is perceived as weak... The situation in Iran is dire and I believe that in that kind of a reality the change can grow from within."..."

Iran, concluded Mofaz, sees getting its hands of nuclear technology as means to procure regional supremacy and international clout."..."

EU WARNS RUSSIA AGAINST BOOSTING TROOPS IN GEORGIAN BREAKAWAY REGIONS

May 1, 2008 The EU Observer reported: "In a sharp escalation of tensions in the South Caucasus, Russia has claimed that Georgia is set to invade its breakaway region of Abkhazia and is increasing the number of Russian troops there and in South Ossetia in response. The EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, has warned Russia against such a move.

"Even if the increase in peacekeepers is within limits, if we want to diminish the perception of tensions, I don't think it is a wise measure to increase now," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Tuesday (29 April), adding that the union continues to defend the territorial integrity of Georgia.

The statement came only hours after Russia had accused Georgia, a part of the Soviet Union between 1922 and 1991, of attempting to invade Abkhazia, something that Tbilisi denies.

"If Georgia puts in place the threat it has made on a number of occasions about the use of force in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, we would be forced to take retaliatory measures to protect the lives of our citizens," Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov told press, after talking to his European counterparts in Luxembourg on Tuesday.

The Russian foreign ministry has accused Georgia of sending 1,500 of its own troops and police in the upper Kodori Gorge in Abkhazia, which is still under Tbilisi's control."..."

Georgia has denied any plans or troop build-up, and regarded the Russian move and accusations as provocative.

Prime Minister Lado Gurgenidze said: "From now on, we consider every [Russian] soldier or any unit of military equipment coming in [to Abkhazia and South Ossetia] as illegal, potential aggressors and potential generators of destabilisation."..."

EXCLUSIVE: HALF MAN, HALF CHIMP - SHOULD WE BEWARE THE APEMAN'S COMING?

April 30, 2008 The Scotsman reported: "A LEADING scientist has warned a new species of "humanzee," created from breeding apes with humans, could become a reality unless the government acts to stop scientists experimenting. In an interview with The Scotsman, Dr Calum MacKellar, director of research at the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics, warned the controversial draft Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill did not prevent human sperm being inseminated into animals.

He said if a female chimpanzee was inseminated with human sperm the two species would be closely enough related that a hybrid could be born. He said scientists could possibly try to develop the new species to fill the demand for organ donors.

Leading scientists say there is no reason why the two species could not breed, although they question why anyone would want to try such a technique. Other hybrid species already created include crossed tigers and lions and sheep and goats."..."

GULF STATES MAY END DOLLAR PEGS, KUWAIT MINISTER SAYS

May 1, 2008 Bloomberg.com reported: "Gulf states are considering dropping their pegs to the dollar after the U.S. currency's decline stoked inflation across the region, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Mustafa al-Shimali said. "Yes, there are some" Gulf Cooperation Council states considering dropping their pegs to the dollar, which has fallen 13 percent against the euro in the last 12 months, al-Shimali said in an interview in Kuwait late yesterday without naming the countries. "Some countries will do what we are doing."

Al-Shimali's comments may restoke speculation of a change in Middle East currency systems that eased after the United Arab Emirates and Qatar last month ruled out any revaluation or dropping the dollar peg in the short term. The issue will remain a key issue as long as inflation remains high.

"Inflation is rising in the Gulf to a great extent because of loose monetary policy," said Marios Maratheftis, head of research for Standard Chartered Plc in the Middle East in a telephone interview from Dubai. "Tightening monetary policy can only happen if they drop their currency pegs or strengthen the currency, preferably both."

The U.A.E., Bahrain and Qatar lowered their benchmark interest rates today by a quarter point, matching a cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve a day earlier. The move is needed to maintain the dollar pegs. Saudi Arabia is on its weekend while Oman moves its interest rates in line with the London Inter Bank Offered Rate.

Inflation is running close to 10 percent in Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E., while Qatar's consumer prices rose 14 percent in the fourth quarter.

The Kuwaiti dinar has appreciated 7.9 percent against the dollar since the nation in May became the only Gulf Arab state to drop its peg to the U.S. currency..."

POLAND INDICATES SUPPORT FOR BOOSTING EU'S MILITARY ROLE

April 25, 2008 EU Observer reported: "Despite its image as a strong ally of the US, Poland has indicated it would support a boost in Europe's defence activities, including setting up the bloc's own military planning headquarters.

"We are in favour of a much stronger role for European defence, and that would include a military headquarters," said Polish defence minister Bogdan Klich, according to a news report in the International Herald Tribune. "Those who say there is a contradiction between Atlanticist loyalties and European loyalties are wrong," Mr Klich suggested, adding "We try to combine the two."

The signal from Warsaw could prove crucial for the incoming French presidency of the European Union, starting in July. President Nicolas Sarkozy has indicated on several occasions that he will try to push for more integration in the area.

Paris has been arguing that a common defence in the face of common threats and security interests would be a logical step forward on the path of Europe's unification, initially proposing the creation of an independent EU military planning and defence force.

But Mr Sarkozy has had to somewhat water down his plans – at least in public - mainly due to opposition in Britain as the only other EU member state with a similar scale of defence spending.

UK leader Gordon Brown has been reluctant to show any support for big European initiatives, particularly as London has not yet ratified the EU's new treaty."



MORALES NATIONALIZES BOLIVIAN TELECOM, FOREIGN GAS COMPANIES

May 2, 2008 The Associated Press reported: "President Evo Morales celebrated May Day by announcing the nationalization of Bolivia's leading telecommunications company, Entel, and returning four foreign-owned natural gas companies to state control.

Morales said his government would take "absolute control from this moment on" of the former state telephone company, in which Telecom Italia SpA owns a 50 percent share.

Morales announced plans to buy back Entel last year, but negotiations with Telecom Italia have dragged out. Following Thursday's decree, Bolivian police were dispatched to stand guard outside Entel offices in La Paz and the eastern city of Santa Cruz.

"Basic services _ call them energy, water or communications _ cannot be in the hands of private business. They're public services," Morales told a crowd outside his presidential palace during celebrations of international workers' day."..."