



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 24 2009

TURKEY SUSPENDS DEFENSE DEALS WITH ISRAEL

October 22, 2009 Middle East Newline reported: "Turkey was said to have suspended up to \$1 billion in proposed Israeli defense projects. A leading Israeli defense analyst said the government of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan has decided to end defense and military cooperation with Israel. Analyst Ron Ben-Yishai said the Turkish Defense Ministry has shelved a range of proposed Israeli projects."..."

GERMAN COALITION KEEPS CAUTIOUS TURKEY LINE

October 16, 2009 The EU Observer reported: "Germany's new conservative-liberal coalition has decided to support 'open-ended' EU-Turkey negotiations and favour a 'privileged partnership' in case they fail, it emerged on Wednesday.

The deal is a compromise between calls to reject Ankara's EU bid, coming from chancellor Angela Merkel's Bavarian sister party (CSU) and the Turkey-favourable stance of her liberal junior partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Ms Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), who won the elections last month, is now in talks on forming a new coalition with the FDP, a process she hopes to have wrapped up in time for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9.

Liberal leader Guido Westerwelle, who is likely to become the next foreign minister, tried to exclude the Turkey-question from the week-long coalition negotiations.

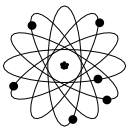
But Bavaria's Christian Social Union called for a formal rejection of the Turkish application. "The coalition protocol must clearly state that there is no support for Turkey's full membership," Alexander Dobrindt, CSU secretary general said, adding that he favours a so-called privileged partnership, meaning a simple free trade area with Turkey, but no voting rights or closer integration within the Union.

Both Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the FDP pointed out that Germany already agreed together with the other member states to open accession negotiations with Turkey in 2005."..."

IRANIAN LAWMAKER REJECTS NUKE DEAL TO SHIP URANIUM

October 22, 2009 The Associated Press reported: "Iran's deputy parliament speaker on Thursday dismissed an internationally backed draft plan to have Tehran ship its uranium abroad for enrichment, the official IRNA news agency reported. The remarks by Mohammad Reza Bahonar were the first reaction in Tehran on the proposal, presented Wednesday after three days of talks between Iran and world powers in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

The plan is seen by the international community as a way to curb Iran's ability to build a nuclear weapon. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. Tehran is expected to decide by Friday on whether to approve the plan that calls for shipping Iran's uranium to Russia for enrichment to a level that renders it suitable as nuclear fuel for energy production _ not for nuclear weapons.



"The United States demanded Iran ship uranium abroad, in return for getting fuel back," Bahonar said, according to IRNA. "But Iran does not accept this."

Iran's parliament will not vote on the draft plan, and Bahonar does not speak for the government, which is to decide on the matter. But it's unclear if his comments could reflect high-level resistance to the deal or the opinions of some influential politicians in Iran.

There has been no response so far to the offer from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, or President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The proposal may meet resistance by some Iranian leaders because it weakens Iran's control over its stockpiles of nuclear fuel and could be perceived as a concession to the United States, which took part in the Vienna talks with France and Russia."..."

SOLANA: 'NO TIME TO LOSE' ON IRAN

October 21, 2009 The Jerusalem Post reports: "The world cannot accept an Iranian bomb, European Union foreign police chief Javier Solana told President Shimon Peres's 'Facing Tomorrow' conference in Jerusalem Wednesday.

'Tomorrow is today and we have no time to lose,' he said. He also mentioned the Middle East peace process, saying, 'Nothing has been done in the world without taking risks.'

Earlier in the day, Solana toured Ramallah and met with Palestinian Authority leaders. He expressed support for PA President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah party, and was set to meet with PA Prime Minister Salaam Fayad later Wednesday..."

'IF ISRAEL STRIKES IRAN, U.S. WILL LIKELY JOIN'

October 20, 2009 Haaretz reports: "The United States would find it difficult not to join an Israeli air strike in the event that Jerusalem decides to strike Iran's nuclear facilities, a former top-ranking U.S. Air Force officer told participants at a conference this weekend

organized by a Washington think tank.

Charles F. Wald, former deputy commander of United States European Command, said a military strike on Iran could set back the Islamic Republic's alleged nuclear weapons program by several years, but cautioned, 'I don't think Israel can do it alone.'

The former commander's remarks were made at an annual gathering of financial backers of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, who were joined by diplomats, journalists and analysts.

'They have a fantastic military, but not big enough for weeks or months of attacks - hundreds of sorties per day,' he said. Wald said that should 'our great ally Israel' decide to take military action to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, 'pressure will mount for us to stand by Israel.'

He also criticized the U.S. government and military leadership for not devoting enough attention to Iran's nuclear program in recent years due to their involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Wald was also asked to comment on the suggestion by Jimmy Carter's former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski last month that the U.S. shoot down Israeli warplanes if they try to fly over Iraq to attack Iran. 'The chance of that,' Wald said, 'is zero- no, less than zero.'

Last month, Wald and two former U.S. senators authored an article calling for U.S. President Barack Obama to begin preparations for implementing a military option against Iran."..."

VATICAN OFFER MAY LURE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIESTS

October 22, 2009 The AP reported: "On the surface, it looks like a polite tug of war between two of the world's great churches, each saying nice things about the other. But the ramifications of the conflict between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England are broad and not yet completely clear, with details of the Vatican's offer to help Anglicans convert still unpublished.

It is not yet known what part of the Anglicans' liturgy and rites will be incorporated into Catholic worship under the surprise offer made earlier this week in a bold bid by Pope Benedict XVI to capitalize on sharp divisions within the Anglican community over the proper role of women clergy and the acceptability of openly gay priests.

Nor is it evident how many Anglicans will seek to switch churches because of the pope's new policy. The Right Rev. John Broadhurst, the Bishop of Fulham, believes roughly 1,000 Church of England clergy will seek to join the Roman Catholic Church. He is chairman of Forward in Faith, a group of traditionalists opposed to the ordination of women. He said this was not a direct result of the pope's new policy but a reflection of widespread unhappiness with liberal Church of England policies.

"There are 1,000 priests who are totally disenchanted with the position on women bishops, and if there is no provision for them, they will inevitably leave the Church of England," he said."..."

Some changes are certain: it will, for example, be possible for married Anglican clergy to become Roman Catholic clergy under the new rules, a prospect that some believe may open the door, slowly, to the acceptance of married Catholic priests.

The Rev. Thomas Reese, a Vatican expert at Georgetown's Theological Center in Washington, predicted the Vatican announcement may have "significant and unforeseen consequences" for the Catholic Church. "It may in fact provide the Catholic Church with a steady supply of married priests," he wrote.

Several commentators have suggested that the Catholic Church will be increasingly pressured into relaxing its own celibacy rule for priests because of the expected influx of married Anglican priests."..."

WHO TO FIGHT DEADLY OUTBREAK IN SODDEN PHILIPPINES

October 22, 2009 The AP reported: "The World Health Organization will send an emergency team to help the Philippines fight a bacterial disease outbreak that has killed at least 148 people and sickened nearly 2,000 in and around the flood-hit capital, officials said Thursday.

Outbreaks of leptospirosis, spread by water contaminated with the urine of rats, dogs and other animals, have compounded the problems faced by the Philippines after back-to-back storms since late last month killed more than 900 people and devastated northern regions.

At least 148 have died and 1,963 people have been sickened in the capital, Manila, and outlying suburbs. Infections have also been reported in the nearby provinces of Rizal and Laguna, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said.

Government medical workers have given antibiotics to 1.3 million people as a preventive step, and the government has asked WHO and other foreign health agencies for help.

People are infected through exposed cuts and bruises. The disease can cause high fever, headache, sore muscles and vomiting. In extreme cases, it can lead to kidney failure and internal bleeding that can cause death.

Prolonged flooding can cause a "perfect storm of disease," including leptospirosis, dengue fever and cholera, according to Merlin, a medical aid group."..."

