



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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IRAN: RUSSIAN SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONS 'UNACCEPTABLE'

May 26, 2010 YnetNews.com reports: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Russian support for new UN sanctions against his country was unacceptable and called on President Dmitry Medvedev to rethink his support for Washington's stance.

'We shouldn't see, at sensitive times, our neighbor (Russia) supporting those who have been against us, have shown animosity to us for 30 years. This is not acceptable for the Iranian nation. I hope they will pay attention and take corrective action,' Ahmadinejad said in a televised speech in the south-eastern city of Kerman.

'If I was in the place of Russian officials, I would adopt a more careful stance,' the ISNA news agency quoted him as saying after a cabinet meeting.

The United States this week succeeded in forging a compromise with the other four permanent members of the Security Council for a fourth round of sanctions against Iran for its defiance in refusing to halt uranium enrichment."..."

NORTH KOREA THREATENS MILITARY ACTION IN DISPUTED WATERS

May 25, 2010 The National Post reports: "North Korea on Tuesday threatened military action if the South continued to violate its waters off the west coast, further stoking tension on the peninsula after the sinking of a South Korean warship.

The increasingly war-like rhetoric hit Seoul's financial markets, prompting financial policymakers to call an emergency meeting on Wednesday to look for ways to calm investors.

'Should the South side's intrusions into the territorial waters of our side continue, the DPRK (North Korea) will put into force practical military measures to defend its waters as it had already clarified and the south side will be held fully accountable for all the ensuing consequences,' North Korea's KCNA news agency quoted a senior official as saying.

The furious war of words - the North referred to the South's government as 'military gangsters, seized by fever for a war' - follows a report by international investigators last week which accused the hermit North of torpedoing the Cheonan corvette in March, killing 46 sailors.

On Monday, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak cut trade with his impoverished neighbour and blocked its commercial ships from sailing through the South's waters. He also plans to take the issue to the UN Security Council.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in China on Tuesday that Washington and Beijing would work together to come up with an "effective, appropriate" response to the sinking.

Both China and the United States say they want to see peace and stability on the peninsula, but agreeing on how to pursue it may be hard. Washington condemned the sinking, while China has been largely silent about the behaviour of its volatile ally.

Russia, which like China and the United States holds a veto in the Security Council, urged restraint. President Dmitry Medvedev urged both sides to "prevent a further escalation on the situation on the Korean peninsula."..."

VOLCANIC ASH COULD THREATEN EUROPE'S PEAK TOURIST SEASON

May 24, 2010 Dream vacations may become a reality once again for European travelers. Scientists in Iceland report the volcanic eruptions that have disrupted air travel across Europe for more than a month appear to be calming down and the ash cloud that has threatened the continent's airspace is dissipating.

The announcement is welcome news for would-be travelers and the airline industry, which lost an estimated \$1.6 billion in last month's six-day shutdown of air space.

But scientists say the volcano is still rumbling deep within the earth and could erupt again. Plus, scientists warn of a larger neighboring volcano that could also erupt at any time.

Missing out on tourists during peak travel season is just what Frances Tuke, spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents, would like to avoid.

"We cannot control the eruptions of a volcano, but what we can do is change and adapt our reaction to it, which is what the U.K. travel industry is endeavoring to do in order to make sure that flying is safe, but that there is minimum disruption," she said.

At the height of the volcanic eruptions last month, airlines grounded their planes for fear the ash could interfere with jet engines and make flying unsafe."..."



US, JAPAN TO KEEP US MILITARY BASE IN OKINAWA

May 27, 2010 The Associated Press reported: "Washington and Tokyo agreed Friday to keep a contentious U.S. Marine base in the

southern island of Okinawa, reaffirming the importance of their security alliance and the need to maintain American troops in Japan.

In a joint statement, the two allies agreed to move the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Henoko, in a less crowded, northern part of the island. The decision is broadly in line with a 2006 deal forged with the previous, conservative Tokyo government, but represents a broken campaign promise on the part of Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

Hatoyama came to office last September promising to create a "more equal" relationship with Washington and move the Marine base off the island, which hosts more than half the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan under a 50-year-old joint security pact.

But after months of searching and fruitless discussions with Washington and Okinawan officials, the prime minister acknowledged earlier this month that the base needed to stay in Okinawa.

His decision, which he had pledged to deliver by the end of May, has angered tens of thousand of island residents who complain about base-related noise, pollution and crime, and want Futenma moved off the island entirely.

U.S. military officials and security experts argued it is essential that Futenma remain on Okinawa because its helicopters and air assets support Marine infantry units based on the island. Moving the facility off the island could slow the Marines' coordination and response in times of emergency.

Under a 1960 security pact, American armed forces are allowed broad use of Japanese land and facilities. In return, the U.S. is obliged to respond to attacks on Japan and protect the country under its nuclear umbrella."..."

NICARAGUAN LEADER THREATENS TO DISSOLVE CONGRESS

May 27, 2010 The AP reported: "Nicaragua's leftist leader has threatened to dissolve congress as a political struggle rages over presidential powers and term limits.

At a meeting of private industry leaders Wednesday night, President Daniel Ortega expressed frustration at stalled Supreme Court appointments and threatened to do away with the country's unicameral National Assembly.

"If you give me the word, I'll refound congress," Ortega said, in comments republished by the president's communications office. "If the business council supports me, I'll rewrite it, I'll dissolve the National Assembly."

Justices loyal to Ortega's Sandinista Party have overruled constitutional term limits, paving the way for him to run for a second consecutive term.

But the court itself has been thrown into crisis as terms expire and new appointments are held up in congress, where neither the Sandinistas nor Liberal Party have a majority.

Liberal Party spokesman Leonel Teller said Thursday that the president's threat to dissolve the National Assembly indicates dictatorial tendencies, and he urged the Organization of American States in Washington to intervene in the dispute.

The local president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said Ortega appeared to speaking in jest when he suggested dissolving congress."..."

Ortega has extended by decree the expired terms of some Supreme Court justices, while lawmakers say they alone have the power to seat judges."..."

N. KOREA THREATENS TO ATTACK S. KOREA SHIPS AS TEMPERS FLARE

May 27, 2010 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea vowed Thursday to attack any South Korean ships which violate their disputed border and Seoul's navy staged its own show of strength amid continuing high tension over the sinking of a warship.

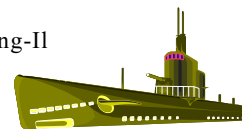
Pyongyang's military general staff also scrapped a pact which guards against accidental naval clashes at the flashpoint border, and repeated threats to shut down a joint business project.

Elsewhere in the Yellow Sea, South Korea's navy staged an anti-submarine exercise, its first since Seoul publicly accused Pyongyang of torpedoing one of its warships on March 26 with the loss of 46 lives.

In Seoul, an estimated 10,000 protesters shouted "Kill our enemy!" and whacked images of the North's leader Kim Jong-Il with wooden bars.

Investigators from five countries said last week they found overwhelming evidence that a torpedo attack by a North Korean submarine sank the Cheonan near the border.

The South has announced a series of reprisals including a halt to trade. The North, which denies involvement, has responded with angry rhetoric and an announcement that it is cutting all ties with its neighbour."..."



SOUTH PACIFIC QUAKE TRIGGERS TSUNAMI WARNING

May 27, 2010 VOAnews.com reported: "A major earthquake in the South Pacific Ocean has triggered a tsunami warning for several island nations and territories.

The U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center told VOA a tsunami warning is in effect for Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and the French territory of New Caledonia. No other details were immediately available."

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