



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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GULF STATES PUSHING FOR ATTACK ON IRAN

August 19, 2010 Arutz Sheva reported: "First it was the United Arab Emirates ambassador in Washington, now it's a Saudi Arabian editorial, and John Bolton says the entire Persian Gulf feels the same: an attack on Iran is the only option - if it's not too late."

An editorial in an official Saudi Arabian newspaper indicates that a military attack against Iran might be the only way of stopping it from obtaining nuclear weapons. "Tehran is moving its conflict with the international community into high gear," the Al Madina daily wrote this week, "and [in this case] some may consider the military option to be the best solution."

Delaying recourse to this option, the paper continues, "may lead to a point where it is impossible to implement it - if Tehran manages to produce a nuclear bomb of its own."

Former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton goes a bit further, saying it is the only way of stopping it - but adds that it might already be too late.

Just last month, the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Washington said at a conference, "A military attack on Iran by whomever would be a disaster, but Iran with a nuclear weapon would be a bigger disaster."

Ambassador Yousef al-Otaiba was unusually candid in his remarks, saying, "I think it's a cost-benefit analysis. I think despite the large amount of trade we do with Iran, which is close to \$12 billion... there will be consequences, there will be a backlash and there will be problems with people protesting and rioting and very unhappy that there is an outside force attacking a Muslim country; that is going to happen no matter what... Am I willing to live with that, versus living with a nuclear Iran? My answer is still the same: 'We cannot live with a nuclear Iran.' I am willing to absorb what takes place at the expense of the security of the U.A.E."

Former Ambassador Bolton feels that many states in the Persian Gulf region feel the same. He told Army Radio today (Thursday), however, that it might very well be too late to attack Iran because of the radioactivity that will emanate from the bombed reactor, harming the civilian population.

"Diplomacy and sanctions against Iran have failed," Bolton told Army Radio's Nitzan Fisher on the Ma Bo'er program, "and don't think the West took seriously enough Iran's efforts over the course of decades to get nuclear power."...



Iran

IRAN SAYS TO UNVEIL ARRAY OF WEAPONS NEXT WEEK

August 17, 2010 AFP reported: "Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Tuesday that Iran will unveil next week an array of weapons, including missiles, speedboats and a long range drone, the ISNA news agency reported."

Two missiles, Qiam (Rising) and the third generation Fateh 110 (Conqueror) would be tested next week when Iran marks the annual government week, Vahidi said in reference to the Iranian week which starts on Saturday. Iran will also unveil the long-range drone, Karar, he said using the nickname of revered Shiite Imam Ali.

On Sunday Iran launches its annual government week which runs until August 30 and is an occasion to showcase Tehran's achievements. Iran has previously paraded a version of Fateh 110 which has a travel range of 150 to 200 kilometres (90 to 125 miles), but the range of the surface-to-surface Qiam missile was not reported by ISNA on Tuesday.

Vahidi said production lines of two missile-carrying speedboats, Seraj (Lamp) and Zolfaqar (named after Imam Ali's sword) would also be opened next week. Vahidi said the unveiling of these weapons indicate that "sanctions have had no impact on us, but made us more experienced and self-sufficient."

Iranian officials regularly boast about the Islamic republic's military capabilities and Vahidi's announcements come at a time when local officials have been warning against any attack on the Islamic republic. Tehran's archfoes, the United States and Israel have not ruled out a military strike against Iran to stop its controversial nuclear programme.

Last week a top commander from the Revolutionary Guards said Iran will mass produce replicas of the Bladerunner 51, often described as the world's fastest boat, and equip them with weapons to be deployed in the Gulf. Also on August 8, Iran took delivery of four new mini-submarines of the home-produced Ghadir class. Weighing 120 tonnes, the "stealth" submarines are aimed at operations in shallow waters, notably in the Gulf."

IRAN'S PRESIDENT BLASTS "UNJUST" WORLD ORDER

August 17, 2010 The Fars News Agency reports: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad underlined here on Tuesday that the current world order is on the edge of a precipice, and action should be taken immediately to create a 'just world order'."

'Unilateral, discriminatory and unjust structures have accelerated the collapse of the (current) world order,' Ahmadinejad said in a meeting with new Irish Ambassador to Tehran Oliver Grogan here in Tehran today. The world needs a new order based on justice, friendship and respect,' President Ahmadinejad added.

The Iranian president underlined the significant role of independent and liberal states like Iran and Ireland in the establishment of such a new world order.

"The conditions we are experiencing today need planning for new orders in the world and (our) cooperation and co-thinking for organizing the conditions," Ahmadinejad said on the sidelines of "the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)" in Istanbul, Turkey in June..."

IRAN WARNS AGAINST ATTACK ON NUCLEAR PLANT

August 17, 2010 Voice of America News reports: "Iran warned Tuesday that any attack on its nuclear power plant would be an 'international crime.'

The head of Iran's nuclear agency Ali Akbar Salehi issued the warning in an interview with Iranian media as the country prepares to start up a Russian-fueled reactor for the first time. Iran is planning to launch the Bushehr power plant on August 21, using fuel delivered by Russia. The plant would begin generating electricity days after that.

Iran says observers from the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency will supervise the process...

Meantime, the former U.S. representative to the United Nations, John Bolton, told Fox News that Israel has until August 21 to attack the Bushehr facility. He said after that point there is too high a risk of spreading radiation. Bolton added that he does not think it is very likely Israel will actually launch an attack in the next week."..."

CHINA LASHES OUT AT PENTAGON MILITARY REPORT

August 19, 2010 SpaceWar.com reported: "China hit out Wednesday at a Pentagon report on its expanding military capabilities as other Asian nations said they would be keeping a wary eye on their giant neighbour's growing might. Beijing said the US Defence Department report was "not beneficial" for military ties between the two powers, while state media branded the dossier "aggressive" and said it exaggerated China's military power.

Geng Yansheng, spokesman for China's defence ministry, insisted his country was on a "path of peaceful development". "Issuing this report is not beneficial for the improvement and development of Sino-US military ties," he said in a statement.

The Pentagon report to the US Congress said China's military strategists were looking to extend their reach to be able to hit targets as far away as mainland Japan, the Philippines and the US territory of Guam.

Beijing was ramping up investment in a range of areas including nuclear weapons, long-range missiles, submarines, aircraft carriers and cyber warfare, according to the report, published Monday.

Taiwan responded on Tuesday by renewing its call for the United States to sell it advanced weaponry, and joined Japan in vowing to keep a close eye on China's rising military strength.

"China has not given up the use of force against Taiwan and we are closely monitoring China's military developments. We ask the public to rest assured," Taiwan defence ministry spokesman Yu Sy-tue said.

A Japanese defence ministry spokeswoman said Tokyo would "keep paying attention to China's military trend," which it believed would "have a significant impact on security in the region."

But China demanded that Washington stop issuing such reports.

"China... firmly abides by a defensive national defence policy, does not take part in military confrontation and does not pose a military threat to any country," Geng said.

"We ask the United States... to stop remarks and behaviour that are not beneficial for mutual trust between the two militaries and Sino-US relations."..."

SEOUL WANTS APOLOGY BEFORE NUCLEAR TALKS RESUME

August 22, 2010 Agence France-Press reported: "South Korea said Friday it wanted Pyongyang to apologise for the sinking of one of its warships before it could consider a resumption of North Korea nuclear disarmament talks.

The comments followed a visit by a top Chinese envoy to Pyongyang this week to discuss the disarmament process, which has been stalled since communist North Korea stormed out in April last year.

"First of all, the North should take some sincere measures concerning the Cheonan incident," South Korea's foreign ministry deputy spokesman Shin Maeong-Ho told AFP. "Under the current circumstances, it's too early to talk about the resumption of the six-party talks," he said in reference to the multilateral forum aimed at inducing the North to give up its nuclear arsenal.

Tensions have been running high on the Korean peninsula since the March sinking of the Cheonan with the loss of 46 lives, with Seoul and Washington accusing the North of torpedoing the corvette."..."

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