



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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ALI QAEDA ALLY IN IRAQ SAYS ALL CHRISTIANS 'LEGITIMATE TARGETS'

November 3, 2010 The Christian Science Monitor reported: "The Islamic State of Iraq, an insurgent group and Al Qaeda ally, on Tuesday declared all the country's Christians "legitimate targets."

The group says it believes that Muslim women are being held against their will in Coptic churches in Egypt. The Egyptian state; the Coptic church; and Egypt's leading Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, have all condemned the threats of violence against Christians.

The threat came while Iraq was still reeling from a series of car bombs across the capital Tuesday that killed at least 113 people in Shiite neighborhoods. The attacks bore the hallmarks of Sunni Arab militants like the Islamic State of Iraq. Tuesday's massacre appeared designed to fuel sectarian violence against Shiites.

That followed Sunday's targeting of Christians, when the Islamic State of Iraq seized a Catholic church in Baghdad and killed 58 people during a standoff with police. It was said to be the deadliest attack against Christians ever recorded in Iraq.

"All Christian centers, organizations and institutions, leaders and followers, are legitimate targets for the mujahideen [holy warriors]," the Islamic State of Iraq said in a statement posted online late Tuesday.

Sunni militant chatrooms have been inflamed in recent weeks with claims that the Egyptian Coptic church is forcibly holding two women, wives of Coptic priests, who converted to Islam."..."

YEMEN CARGO PLANE PLOT: ONE OF THE BOMBS TRAVELLED ON TWO PASSENGER JETS

October 31, 2010 The London Daily Telegraph reports: "One of the two bombs mailed from Yemen and found on cargo jets in Dubai and Britain travelled on two passenger jets in the Middle East, according to a spokesman for Qatar Airways."

The airline spokesman said a package containing explosives hidden in a printer cartridge arrived in Qatar Airways' hub in Doha, on one of the carrier's flights from the Yemeni capital Sana'a. It was then shipped on a separate Qatar Airways plane to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, where it was discovered by authorities late early on Friday. A second, similar package turned up in England's East Midlands Airport.

Barack Obama's counter-terrorism adviser said the parcel bombs had been made by the same person as the device worn by the so-called 'underpants bomber' who botched an attack over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009."..."

FED WILL PROBABLY START \$500 BILLION OF BOND BUYS, SURVEY SHOWS

November 2, 2010 bloomberg.com reported: "The Federal Reserve will probably introduce an unprecedented second round of unconventional monetary easing tomorrow by announcing a plan to buy at least \$500 billion of long-term securities, according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg News."

Policy makers meeting today and tomorrow will restart a program of securities purchases to spur growth, reduce unemployment and increase inflation, said 53 of 56 economists surveyed last week. Twenty-nine estimated the Fed will pledge to buy \$500 billion or more, while another seven predicted \$50 billion to \$100 billion in monthly purchases without a specified total. The remainder said the Fed would buy up to \$500 billion or didn't quantify their forecast.

The varied responses reflect differences among Fed officials over the total amount of purchases needed to bolster the recovery. Policy makers, pursuing unprecedented stimulus, have cut the benchmark rate almost to zero and bought \$1.7 trillion in securities without generating growth fast enough to bring down unemployment from near a 26-year high.

"There's no silver bullet right now" and central bankers have "very few options left in terms of lowering interest rates," said John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo Securities LLC in Charlotte, North Carolina. He predicted \$500 billion of Treasury and mortgage-backed securities purchases in the next six months."..."



FRANCE AND UK PLAN UNPRECEDENTED MILITARY COOPERATION

November 2, 2010 Reuters reported: "Britain and France will launch a broad defense partnership on Tuesday that includes setting up a joint force and sharing equipment and nuclear missile research centers, a French government source said. Treaties to be signed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron at a meeting in London will pave the way for an unprecedented degree of military cooperation between the two neighbors."

The NATO allies, western Europe's biggest defense spenders and its only nuclear powers, have a centuries-old history of military rivalry and, more recently, have differed sharply over issues such as the Iraq war. Their new partnership is driven by the desire to maintain cutting-edge military capabilities while at the same time reducing defense spending to rein in big budget deficits.

France and Britain will agree to set up a joint brigade-sized army contingent with air and sea support, which could assemble as needed to take part in NATO, European Union, United Nations or bilateral operations, the French source said.”...

Cameron's government announced two weeks ago it was cutting Britain's 37 billion pound (\$59.4 billion) defense budget by 8 percent in real terms over the next four years to help rein in a record peacetime budget deficit.

France's aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle and a British carrier that is just being built will be made compatible so that each country could fly its planes off the other's carrier. The ultimate aim is for the two countries to coordinate so that one carrier is at sea at all times.



The two countries will agree to share nuclear warhead research and simulation centers, the source said. With nuclear missile tests banned, sophisticated laboratories permit both countries to test the safety of their warheads.

"This signifies that we have reached an unprecedented level of trust," the French source said. "It's this step taken in the nuclear domain that allows us to go further elsewhere."..."

AMAN CHIEF: SYRIA'S NEW RUSSIAN MISSILES COULD CHALLENGE ISRAELI AIR FORCE

November 2, 2010 DebkaFile.com reported: "In his farewell briefing to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Tuesday, Nov. 2, departing Israel Military Intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin listed the threats to Israel as headed by Iran. But he warned that Syria is buying advanced Russian self-propelled air defense missiles with long-range optical and targeting ranges that would encumber the Israeli Air Force warplanes' freedom of action in an emergency.

We used to calculate that in just 48 hours we could wipe out enemy anti-air systems. Now things have changed and we could be thrown back to [the "days of] "the Canal."

(debkafile's military sources say "the Canal" is a shorthand reference to the War of Attrition Egypt waged against Israel after the 1967 War fighting with Russian-manned air defense missiles and Russian-piloted planes deployed on the Suez Canal to down Israeli warplanes.”...”)

Syria while snapping up every advanced piece of war hardware coming off Russian production lines, also continues to arm the Lebanese Hizballah, said the AMAN chief. Although Iran's Lebanese surrogate has the resources for hitting Tel Aviv, its leaders are afraid of Israel because they know the price that would be exacted from them and have not forgotten the real lessons of the Second Lebanon War of 2006.

Referring to Hizballah's threats of dire consequences if the Special Lebanese Tribunal incriminates its officials for the murder of former prime minister Rafiq Hariri, Yadlin said: "It is a disaster for Hizballah's image and for Lebanese stability. Should Hizballah resolve to conquer the entire country, it could do so within hours because Lebanon does not have a single military force capable of standing up to them."

Iran, said the intelligence chief, is constructing another two nuclear facilities although its plan to build another eight has been slowed down by "technical problems." Tehran will soon have accumulated enough fissile material to build two bombs. International sanctions are however biting harder than Tehran is willing to admit, especially since Russia and China have taken a hand in the penalties. Today, the ordinary Iranian has to pay more for water than he does for oil.”...”

VATICAN SYNOD ENDS WITH CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

October 23, 2010 Reuters reported: "In its concluding message after two weeks of meetings, bishops from the Middle East also said they hoped a two-state solution for peace between Israel and the Palestinians could be made a reality and called for peaceful conditions that would stop a Christian exodus from the region.

"We have meditated on the situation of the holy city of Jerusalem. We are anxious about the unilateral initiatives that threaten its composition and risk to change its demographic balance," the message said.

U.S.-brokered peace talks have stalled since Israel rejected appeals to extend a temporary moratorium on settlement construction in the occupied West Bank which expired last month. Since then, Israel has announced plans to build another 238 homes in two East Jerusalem neighborhoods, provoking condemnation from Palestinians and world leaders.

In a separate part of the document -- a section on cooperation with Jews -- the synod fathers took issue with Jews who use the Bible to justify settlements in the West Bank, which Israel captured in 1967.

"Recourse to theological and biblical positions which use the Word of God to wrongly justify injustices is not acceptable," the document said. Many Jewish settlers and right-wing Israelis claim a biblical birthright to the occupied West Bank, which they call Judea and Samaria and regard as a part of historical, ancient Israel given to the Jews by God.

Asked about the passage at a news conference, Greek-Melchite Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustros, said: "We Christians cannot speak about the promised land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people. All men and women of all countries have become the chosen people.

"The concept of the promised land cannot be used as a base for the justification of the return of Jews to Israel and the displacement of Palestinians," he added. "The justification of Israel's occupation of the land of Palestine cannot be based on sacred scriptures."..."

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