



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 01 2011

NOW THE EU ORDERS BRITAIN: LET MIGRANTS CLAIM BENEFITS AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE IN UK

September 30, 2011 The Daily Mail reported: "Europe has given Britain two months to scrap policies preventing benefit tourists claiming billions of pounds in handouts. Last night the European Commission said it would take the Government to court unless it draws up plans to axe restrictions on claims by immigrants, saying they are against the law and must be scrapped.

Brussels bureaucrats acted after receiving a complaint that the rules infringed the human rights of EU citizens.

It is feared the change could open the door to tens of thousands of Eastern Europeans who are currently deterred from coming to Britain – costing taxpayers up to £2.5 billion a year in extra welfare payments.

At present a 'habitual residency' test is used to establish whether EU migrants are eligible for benefits.

To qualify for jobseekers' allowance, employment support allowance, pension credit and income support, they must demonstrate they have either worked here previously or have a good opportunity to get a job.

But the European Commission said this 'right to reside' test indirectly discriminates against nationals from other EU states by enforcing a set of conditions that effectively tests their right to state handouts."

CHINA READY FOR NEXT SPACE LEAP

September 29, 2011 The BBC News reported: "China is due to launch its first space laboratory, Tiangong-1. The 10.5m-long, cylindrical module will be unmanned for the time being, but the country's astronauts, or yuhangyuans, are expected to visit it next year.

Tiangong-1 will demonstrate the critical technologies needed by China to build a fully-fledged space station - something it has promised to do at the end of the decade. The space lab is set to ride to orbit atop a Long March 2F rocket.

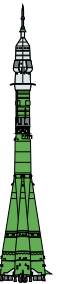
State media say the lift-off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the Gobi Desert is likely to occur between 21:16 and 21:31 local time (13:16-13:31 GMT). Meteorologists report that weather conditions should be good.

The Long March will put Tiangong in a near-circular path around the Earth, just a few hundred km above the surface.

It will operate in an autonomous mode, monitored from the ground. Then, in a few weeks' time, China will launch another unmanned spacecraft, Shenzhou 8, and try to link the pair together.

This rendezvous and docking capability is a prerequisite if larger structures are ever to be assembled in orbit.

Commentators say Russian technology, or a close copy of it, will be used to bring the two craft into line. Assuming the venture goes well, two manned missions (Shenzhou 9 and 10) should follow in 2012."..."



IRAN SAYS COULD DEPLOY NAVY NEAR U.S. COAST

September 27, 2011 Reuters reported: "Iran raised the prospect on Tuesday of sending military ships close to the United States' Atlantic coast, in what would be a major escalation of tensions between the long-standing adversaries.

"Like the arrogant powers that are present near our marine borders, we will also have a powerful presence close to American marine borders," the head of the Navy, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said, according to the official IRNA news agency.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 31st anniversary of the start of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, Sayyari gave no details of when such a deployment could happen or the number or type of vessels to be used.

The declaration comes just weeks after Turkey said it would host a NATO early warning radar system which will help spot missile threats from outside Europe, including potentially from Iran. The decision has angered Tehran which had enjoyed close relations with Ankara.

And it comes a few months after Iran sent warships through the Suez canal, after the fall of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the first time the Islamic Republic had deployed navy vessels in the Mediterranean.

The United States and Israel have not ruled out military action against Iran if diplomacy fails to stop it getting nuclear weapons. Tehran denies it is developing nuclear arms saying its atomic program is for purely peaceful purposes. Iran has dismissed the threats, warning that it will respond by hitting U.S. interests in the Gulf and Israel if any such attack happened.

Analysts say Tehran could retaliate by launching hit-and-run strikes in the Gulf and by closing the Strait of Hormuz, the waterway where about 40 percent of all traded oil passes.

The Islamic state often launches military drills in the country to display its military capabilities amid persistent speculation about a possible U.S. or Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities."..."

PUTIN TO RETURN AS RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

September 25, 2011 The Financial Times reports: "Russia's prime minister Vladimir Putin will return to his post as president next year after he and president Dmitry Medvedev announced they were switching jobs. The announcement was made on Saturday at the annual conference of United Russia, the hegemonic party that controls two-thirds of Russia's parliament. It put to rest intrigue over Mr. Putin's next move.

The announcement confirms the long-held impression that Mr. Medvedev was only ever a place holder for Mr. Putin, who was constitutionally prohibited from a third term after serving as president from 2000-2008.

Mr. Putin is now likely to win two consecutive 6 year terms, giving him a total of a quarter century in power from the time he took over the Kremlin in 2000. He remains Russia's strongest political figure despite stepping aside for four years.

Mr. Putin started proceedings, telling delegates that Mr. Medvedev would succeed him in heading the United Russia party's election list in December 4 parliamentary elections. Later, he suggested Mr. Medvedev's candidacy for prime minister, which Mr. Medvedev accepted..."

N. KOREA COULD BE 'WORST NIGHTMARE' - AUSTRALIA

September 27, 2011 AFP reported: "Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd on Tuesday urged the world not to be lured into a false sense of security by North Korea, warning its nuclear weapons drive could become "our worst nightmare".

The North abandoned six-nation talks in April 2009, a month before staging a second nuclear test which brought worldwide condemnation and fresh United Nations sanctions. Now all sides say they want to start talking again, especially after Pyongyang's disclosure last November of a uranium enrichment programme (UEP) which could give it a second way to make atomic weapons.

Rudd, Australia's former prime minister, urged caution.

"Make no mistake, the North Korean regime is armed and dangerous," he said in an opinion piece for Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

"It has a long history of brinkmanship and has shown that it is prepared to lash out. A cruel totalitarian state, it has no regard for the welfare of its people, much less world opinion."

He said the world should not be fooled by the dire state of the country's economy, with aid groups warning this week that hunger was worsening and could develop into a major crisis next year.

"Let's be clear, the regime in Pyongyang is dangerous. Its behaviour is often unpredictable. But one thing about it we can predict is it being hell-bent on building a nuclear arsenal," he said. Of particular concern to Australia was the regime's development of new missiles with a much longer range.

Rudd cited the Taepodong 2, which he said could travel as far as 9,000 kilometres (5,580 miles), bringing it within reach of northern Australia as well as the United States.

"North Korea has left no one in any doubt about its determination to eventually field intercontinental ballistic missiles and to miniaturise nuclear bombs so that their missiles can carry them, as difficult a challenge as this is," he said.

Rudd called for a tightening of sanctions against the North Korean leadership, and for its weapons programmes to be countered "in every practical way that we can".



North Korea

EXCLUSIVE: CONCERN GROWS OVER MILITANT ACTIVITY IN LIBYA

September 29, 2011 Reuters reported: "As the dust settles after six months of fighting in Libya, U.S. officials are stepping up efforts to identify Islamic militants who might pose a threat in a post-Gaddafi power vacuum.

U.S. counterterrorism and intelligence agencies have recently produced classified papers examining the strength, role and activities of militant activists and factions in post-Gaddafi Libya, four U.S. officials said. Some assessments examine the backgrounds of anti-Gaddafi leaders with militant pedigrees, and explore whether these individuals, some of whom have publicly renounced Islamic militancy, will stand by their pledges against extremism.

During the half-year campaign by rebels to drive Muammar Gaddafi from power, U.S. and NATO officials downplayed fears that al Qaeda or other militants would infiltrate anti-Gaddafi forces or take advantage of disorder to establish footholds in Libya. Since then, however, the assessment of top experts inside the U.S. government has sharpened.

"It's of concern that terrorists are going to take advantage of instability" in post-Gaddafi Libya, said a U.S. official who monitors the issue closely.

"There is a potential problem," said another U.S. official, who said both the U.S. government and Libya's National Transitional Council were watching closely. Experts around the U.S. intelligence community "are paying attention to this," a third U.S. official said.

Officials said that while the rebellion against Gaddafi continued, it was difficult to collect intelligence on the rebels. But now that Gaddafi's regime has dissolved, U.S. and allied agencies are taking a closer look."..."

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