



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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ARMY GENERAL TO FACE COURT-MARTIAL, POSSIBLE LIFE SENTENCE, OVER SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CHARGES

December 18, 2012 WND.com reported: "An Army general will face court-martial on a series of sexual misconduct charges, including forcible sodomy, in connection with several illicit affairs, and could receive life in prison if convicted, the Army said Tuesday.

Included in the allegations against Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair are that he carried on affairs with and mistreated subordinate officers and later tried to impede the investigation of some of the offenses by deleting nude photos and other emails.

The case is the latest in a series of missteps by military leaders: At least five current and former generals at the rank of one-star or higher have been reprimanded or investigated for possible misconduct in recent months.

The five pages of allegations involved Sinclair's conduct with five women who were not his wife."..."

THREE TOP STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS RESIGN OVER BENGHAZI

December 19, 2012 Israel National News reported: "Three top officials in the State Department resigned Wednesday in the wake of a scathing report which slammed "systemic failures" and "management deficiencies" in the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, which resulted in the murder of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

Assistant Secretary Eric Boswell, head of the bureau of diplomatic security, and Charlene Lamb, deputy assistant secretary for international programs, have stepped down, CNN and CBS television said, citing unnamed department officials.

Lamb, who was Boswell's deputy in charge of international programs, denied requests from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli for an extension of temporary security forces that were withdrawn in the months before the Benghazi attack.



The third person expected to resign has not yet been identified.

The resignations came just hours after an independent panel issued a long-awaited inquiry into the terrorist attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, which has been blamed on Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorists.

"Systemic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels within two bureaus of the State Department resulted in a Special Mission security posture that was inadequate for Benghazi and grossly inadequate to deal with the attack that took place," the report said.

The report did not find reason for disciplinary action against any officials but singled out the bureaus of Diplomatic Security and Near Eastern Affairs for criticism, saying its leaders demonstrated a "lack of proactive leadership and management ability in their responses to security concerns."

Lamb wanted to keep the U.S. security presence "artificially low," according to a memo released prior to the hearing.

She had testified that the consulate had enough security resources given what officials detected as known threats to the U.S. facility."..."

CAMERON: BRITISH EU EXIT IS 'IMAGINABLE'

December 18, 2012 EUObserver.com reported: "UK Prime Minister David Cameron has conceded that withdrawal from the EU is "imaginable," in the latest indication that the Conservative leader is preparing the ground for a radical change in the country's EU status.

EU

During a statement in the House of Commons on Monday (17 December) on last week's EU summit in Brussels, the Prime Minister said: "Clearly all futures for Britain are imaginable. We are in charge of our own destiny, we can make our own choices. I believe the choice we should make is to stay in the European Union, to be members of the single market, to maximise our impact in Europe."

Although he commented that leaving the EU was "not a position I support," he added that "where we are unhappy with parts of the relationship we shouldn't be frightened of standing up and saying so."

Cameron's remarks do not change his own stance, but they mark the first time that a UK Prime Minister has openly conceded the prospect of life outside the EU.

London Mayor Boris Johnson also recently commented that leaving the EU would "not be the end of the world," while education secretary Michael Gove and work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan-Smith are among a handful of cabinet ministers believed to be supportive of EU withdrawal

The Conservative leader is expected to outline his thinking on the UK's membership in a highly anticipated speech that has been delayed since autumn and is now expected in January.

Although he again ruled out the prospect of an 'in/out' referendum in his Commons statement, Cameron is expected to unveil plans to claim exemptions from EU employment and social policy and safeguards for the City of London, followed by a referendum on the new EU terms.

At his post-summit press briefing last Friday (14 December) he told reporters that the prospect of deeper integration of the EU countries in the eurozone also offers the UK an opportunity to re-write the terms of its own membership.

In addition to its opt-out from the euro and the Schengen passport-free area, the UK indicated its intention to opt out of EU policy on justice and home affairs in October.”...”

AHMADINEJAH: ENEMIES MOVING ON WRONG PATH IN DEALING WITH IRAN

December 18, 2012 The Fars News Agency reported: “Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad cautioned Iran's enemies to drop their hostile approach towards Iran, and advised them to open the doors of friendship with the Iranian nation.

‘The enemies don't want Iran to reach its real position since it can disturb all (of their) equations,’ Ahmadinejad said, addressing a ceremony in the Northern Mazandaran province on Tuesday.

‘Despite limitations, the Iranian nation is moving ahead with daily progress,’ he said, adding that enemies have always taken a wrong path in dealing with Iran.

Warning that certain foreign states are taking revenge from Iran due to its astonishing progress in different fields, Ahmadinejad addressed the enemies, and said, ‘It would be in your interest to treat Iran in a friendly manner.’...”

BERLUSCONI SAYS ITALY MAY BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE EURO ZONE

December 18, 2012 Reuters reported: “Former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi said on Tuesday Italy would be forced to leave the euro zone unless the European Central Bank gets more powers to ensure lower borrowing costs.

Berlusconi, who announced this month he will again lead his People of Freedom party (PDL) in a national election expected in February, said on a talk-show on state broadcaster RAI that the ECB should become a lender of last resort for the currency bloc.

"If Germany doesn't accept that the ECB must be a real central bank, if interest rates don't come down, we will be forced to leave the euro and return to our own currency in order to be competitive," Berlusconi said in comments reported by Italian news agencies Ansa and Agi.

The 76-year-old media tycoon has made similar remarks in the past about the possibility of Italy, or even Germany, leaving the euro, but has often at least partially rectified them later.

Berlusconi is already campaigning hard for the election with a spate of television interviews in an attempt to close the wide gap with the center-left Democratic Party which is polling at above 30 percent, some 14 points above the PDL.

Berlusconi was forced to resign as prime minister in November last year as Italian bond yields surged at the height of the euro zone debt crisis.”

EGYPT LOOKING TO REMILITARIZE SINAI

December 17, 2012 World Net Daily reports: “Despite its low-profile position in the crisis now facing Muslim Brotherhood-backed Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, the Egyptian military is considering remilitarizing the Sinai Peninsula, which not only will change the strategic balance but could go counter to the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, according to a report from Joseph Farah’s G2 Bulletin.

In effect, sources say, the Sinai buffer that has helped ensure Israel’s security all these years could be threatened. Ironically, that remilitarization effort may be done with help of the United States.

Egypt initially placed more troops in the Sinai after jihadists began flooding into the area following the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year. The jihadists were using the area to launch rocket attacks on Israel, with the help of Bedouin tribesmen who both despised Israel and the Mubarak government.

Then Hamas and al-Qaida began to increase their presence and use the buffer zone that up until now had helped ensure Israel’s security for launching armed attacks into Israel.

With Israel’s tacit agreement, the Egyptians began to move more troops into the area after Egyptian police stations and some military posts came under similar attack.

Now, the Egyptian military, with the backing of Morsi, has decided to place more of its forces into the Sinai at a level which is beyond what was agreed to in the Egypt-Israeli Peace Treaty...”

