



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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UK'S CAMERON PROMISES BRITONS EU REFERENDUM

January 23, 2013 France24.com reported: "UK Prime Minister David Cameron pledged on Wednesday to offer British citizens a vote on leaving the European Union if his party wins the next election, a move likely to trigger alarm among fellow member states such as France and Germany.

Prime Minister David Cameron promised on Wednesday to give Britons a straight referendum choice on whether to stay in the European Union or leave, provided he wins an election in 2015. Cameron ended months of speculation by announcing in a speech the plan for a vote sometime between 2015 and 2018, shrugging off warnings that this could imperil Britain's diplomatic and economic prospects and alienate its allies.

In extracts of the speech released in advance by his office, Cameron said public disillusionment with the EU is at "an all-time high".

"It is time for the British people to have their say. It is time to settle this European question in British politics," he said in the extracts, adding that his Conservative party would campaign for the 2015 election promising to renegotiate Britain's EU membership.

"And when we have negotiated that new settlement, we will give the British people a referendum with a very simple in or out choice to stay in the EU on these new terms; or come out altogether. It will be an in-out referendum."

Whether Cameron will ever hold the referendum remains as uncertain as the Conservatives' chances of winning the next election due in 2015."..."

RUSSIA WARNS ISRAEL AND WEST NOT TO ATTACK IRAN OVER NUCLEAR PROGRAM

January 23, 2013 Haaretz reported: "Russia warned Israel and the West on Wednesday against any military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities. but suggested Tehran should be quicker to cooperate over inspections of its nuclear sites. Speaking at his annual news conference, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov mixed words of caution over isolating Iran or attacking it with a gentle nudge to Tehran over the inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

'Attempts to prepare and implement strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities and on its infrastructure as a whole are a very, very dangerous idea. We hope these ideas will not come to fruition,' Lavrov said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has hinted strongly at possible military action to stop Iran from developing an atomic bomb. In an election victory speech on Wednesday, he said preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons would be the main challenge for a new government..."



ISRAEL UPGRADES MISSILE-KILLER IRON DOME

January 22, 2013 spacedaily.com reported: "Israel's Defense Ministry is testing an upgraded version of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems' combat-tested Iron Dome counter-rocket system that will have "improved capabilities against an unprecedented range of threats."

The ministry didn't identify the threats but the upgrade, Iron Dome's second in recent months, follows reports that the Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip have been test-firing a new long-range missile that could threaten cities in southern and central Israel.

The Iron Dome tests were carried out in conjunction with Rafael and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries, flagship of Israel's defense sector. IAI subsidiary Elta Systems produces Iron Dome's advanced radar system. The command-and-control system is manufactured by mPrest Systems.

The Israelis are locked in a long-running technological battle, with the Palestinians reportedly aided by Iranian engineers and technicians who are striving to develop rockets with greater range and destructive power to pound Israeli's population centers.

The New York Times recently observed that the "missile versus missile defense campaign is being described as the most intense yet in real combat anywhere -- and as having the potential to change warfare in the same way that novel applications of air power in the Spanish Civil War shaped combat in the skies ever since."

The Americans, who have provided hefty funding for Israel's four main missile defense systems, have taken a keen interest in their capabilities. Indeed, the pro-Israel Washington Institute for Near East Policy suggested a few days ago that to "counter the Iranian rocket

and missile threat, Washington and its Persian Gulf allies should draw on lessons learned from Israel's experience in Gaza to improve the interoperability and effectiveness of their defense efforts."...

Iron Dome, designed to intercept rockets with a range of 4-23 miles, was operationally deployed in April 2011 and its combat capabilities have steadily improved. It destroyed 84.6 percent of Palestinian rockets it engaged during an 8-day battle in November. It only seeks out rockets whose computer-tracked trajectories indicate they will hit populated areas.

Hamas and other Palestinian groups in Gaza used Iranian-built Fajr-5 missiles, smuggled into Gaza via tunnels from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, for the first time in that clash. These targeted Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel's main cities for the first time. All were shot down before reaching their targets.

But their deployment escalated a periodic conflict that is expected to involve weapons with even greater range and destructive power in the next exchange."..."

NETANYAHU ALLIES NARROWLY CLING TO VICTORY IN ISRAELI ELECTION

January 22, 2013 FoxNews.com reported: "In a stunning setback, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line bloc fared worse than expected in a parliamentary election Tuesday, exit polls showed, possibly forcing the incumbent Israeli leader to invite surprisingly strong moderate rivals into his government and soften his line toward the Palestinians.

TV exit polls showed the hard-liners with about 61 seats in the 120-seat parliament, a bare majority, and the counts could change as actual votes are tallied.

The unofficial TV results had Netanyahu winning only 31 seats, though he combined his Likud Party with the far-right Yisrael Beitenu for the voting. Running separately four years ago, the two won 42 seats. He expected to increase that total by running together, but the combined list's poll results dipped steadily throughout the three-month campaign.

Netanyahu was also expected to receive stronger backing because his fragmented opposition did not post an agreed candidate against him.

If they hold up through the actual vote counting, the unexpected results could be seen a setback for Netanyahu's tough policies. The coalition-building process could force him to promise concessions to restart long-stalled peace talks with the Palestinians."..."



Knesset

WEST FACES 'DECADES' OF CONFLICT IN N AFRICA

January 21, 2013 FT.com reported: "David Cameron has raised the spectre of Britain being sucked into the fight against terrorists in north Africa for "decades" after the Algerian hostage crisis ended with more than 80 reportedly dead. The UK prime minister said on Sunday that the growing threat of Islamist militants in the Sahel region of Africa required "a response that is about years, even decades, rather than months"...

British officials said the government's response to threats in countries such as Algeria and Mali, where the UK is supporting French efforts to expel Islamist rebels, would mainly focus on attempts to strengthen governments and promote dialogue. But they added that British troops could be forced to take direct action against the growing threat of Islamist militants.

William Hague, British foreign secretary, said it was a "complete illusion" to think the UK was "omnipotent" and able to prevent problems in west Africa. "There is no perfect answer," he told the BBC's Today radio programme on Monday morning."..."

BRITISH ISLAMISTS DURING PROTEST: ISLAM WILL DOMINATE FRANCE

January 21, 2013 Arutz Sheva reported: "Islamists in Britain, who protested outside the French Embassy in London last week, threatened that Islam will dominate France and England, and called to implement Islamic sharia law in all of Europe.

The Muslims, who had been protesting against the French military campaign in Mali, also called French President Francois Hollande a 'Son of Pharaoh'. The demonstration was posted on the Internet on January 12 and was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

The demonstration was led by Muslim hate preacher Anjem Choudary, who has said in the past he plans to flood specific Muslim and non-Muslim communities around the UK and 'put the seeds down for an Islamic Emirate in the long term'. Choudary is the founder of two Muslim groups in Britain that were banned by the British government after being declared terrorist organizations. He has threatened British Jews who support Israel, stating that it is an 'Islamic obligation upon Muslims everywhere to support the Jihad against those who fight Muslims anywhere in the world or who occupy Muslim land.'

He has often praised Muslim terrorists, referring to the September 11 terrorists as 'magnificent martyrs.' In 2003 he endorsed terrorist attacks by British Muslims and said that al-Muhajiroun, one of the groups he founded, would 'encourage people to fulfill their Islamic duties and responsibilities.' He praised the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, India and has also called for stoning homosexuals, assassinating the Pope, and prosecuting Queen Elizabeth for genocide..."