

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 10 2007

ISRAEL ON ALERT FOR IRANIAN ATTACK

March 8, 2007 The Middle East Newslite reported: "Israel has placed its foreign installations on alert for an Iranian strike. Israeli officials said the Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry have increased security on embassies and legations throughout the world. They said the government declared an alert after Teheran accused the Jewish state of abducting a senior Iranian official.

"The prospect of an Iranian retaliation or provocation exists," an Israeli official said.

The alert was issued after Israel was blamed for the disappearance of a former Iranian deputy defense minister in Turkey. An Iranian delegation has been sent to Turkey and demanded the whereabouts of Ali Reza Asghari, missing from an Istanbul hotel since Feb. 7."..."

SUPER BUG KILLS DOZENS IN HOSPITALS ACROSS COUNTRY

March 7, 2007 YnetNews.com reported: "A deadly bacterium known as Klebsiella pneumoniae is believed to have killed some 120-200 patients in hospitals across the country. "Between 400 to 500 people have been infected by the bug, and 30 to 40 percent of them have already died. However, it is important to note that most of them were in a serious condition, and some were suffering from prior medical conditions," said Prof. Yehuda Carmeli, the head of the epidemiology unit at the Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv.

According to Carmeli, most of those infected have been hospitalized for over 25 days, and their average age stood at 74-75. The virulent strain of bacteria is resistant to all kinds of antibiotics, and has already spread in many hospitals across Israel.

Health Minister Yacov Ben Yizri on Wednesday rejected accusations that his ministry had underestimated the scope of the outbreak, saying the case was kept a secret to prevent mass panic.

"It is true that the bug infects people who have been hospitalized with severe illnesses and this should not scare the public," he said.

Infection expert Dr. Galia Rahav of the Sheba Medical Center told Channel 1 Tuesday that 130 people have been infected in Sheba Medical Center alone, and about a third of them have already died."..."

EU RIFTS DEEPEN OVER US MISSILE SHIELD PLAN

March 6, 2007 The EU Observer reported: "US plans to build an anti-missile shield in Poland and the Czech republic have led to open divisions within the EU, with the Czech foreign minister strongly rejecting criticism from Austria and Luxembourg on the scheme.

The controversy over the US defence system - aimed at intercepting ballistic missiles fired from states such as Iran - hit the EU stage on Monday (5 March) as Austrian foreign minister Ursula Plassnik reportedly said "in the population of Austria, there is some concern" during a lunch with her EU counterparts in Brussels.

Just before the meeting, Luxembourg foreign minister Jean Asselborn had also expressed strong concern that Warsaw and Prague's interest in hosting the anti-missile bases could provoke new tensions with Russia. "For me it is incomprehensible that after the end of the 20th century and the fall of the Berlin Wall anyone should start escalating again," he said, according to Reuters. "We'll have no stability in Europe if we force Russia into a corner... We should help Poland and the Czech Republic to rally around a European position," he added.

But the Czech foreign minister Karel Schwarzenberg rebuffed concerns from Vienna and Luxembourg. "I was very astonished to hear this from two voices - first, from Austria which does not take part in the defence of Europe, is not even a part of NATO, and Luxembourg, which is rather far away from us," he told EUobserver.

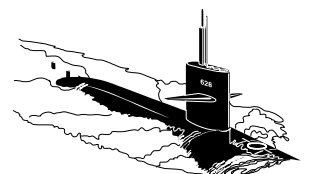
"It is rather strange that these two states raised concern about it. Actually everybody who is concerned about European defence, about security in the future, knows that we need all along a defence against rockets," he continued. "The problem is of course that we in Europe have only started thinking about building it and the United States are far ahead..."

Meanwhile, Danish foreign minister Per Stig Moller expressed support for the planned US system, saying "a defence missile aimed at defending us from getting rockets on our heads is better than not having it and getting rockets on our heads."

But he added that it was necessary to keep Russia and China informed about the developments."..."

CHINA BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINE FORCE GROWING

March 5, 2007 SpaceWar.com reported: "China is conducting sea trials of the first of five new nuclear-powered submarines armed with longer-range ballistic missiles, according to a US naval intelligence report made public Friday. The sea trials are part of a broader push by China to check US naval power in the western Pacific with a more modern fleet of nuclear-powered ballistic missile and attack submarines, the Office of Naval Intelligence said.



The first of the new nuclear ballistic missile submarines, designated the Type 094 SSBN, could begin

operating as early as 2008, it said. The submarine "will provide China with a modern and robust sea-based nuclear deterrent force," the ONI reported. It will be equipped with the JL-2 sea-launched ballistic missile with range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles), a big gain over China's only other ballistic missile submarine.

The XIA SSBN, a 24-year-old nuclear powered vessel, is armed with the JL-1 missile, which has a range of only 1,770 kilometers (1,000 miles). Even at that shorter range, the XIA can target US military facilities in the region from launch points inside traditional Chinese operating areas, the report said.

The ONI said China probably will build five of the new ballistic missile submarines "in order to provide more redundancy and capacity for a near-continuous at-sea SSBN presence."

"Construction and sea trials of the Type 094 program are ongoing," it said.

The unclassified ONI report, which was obtained by AFP and has a question-and-answer format, was first reported by Sea Power magazine, then picked up by the Washington Times. It said China also is concluding sea trials of a new Type 093 nuclear powered attack submarine that is expected to be quieter and armed with more advanced weaponry than its predecessor, the HAN SSN class submarines. It will have anti-ship cruise missiles and more modern torpedoes than the HAN, the report said.

"China has built these features into the Type 093 in an effort to improve the PLA(N)'s (Peoples Liberation Army Navy) to conduct anti-surface warfare at greater ranges from the Chinese coast than its diesel submarine force offers," it said. The report said the China's navy currently has about 55 attack submarines, most of them diesel electric.

It is a smaller but more technologically advanced force than the one China had in the 1980s. Each of the attack submarines are armed with anti-ship cruise missiles and designed to be quiet enough to operate in the open ocean.

A key focus of China's maritime strategy is to keep outside powers beyond striking range in a Tawan scenario."..."

IRAN POISED TO STRIKE IN WEALTHY GULF STATES

March 4, 2007 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Iran has trained secret networks of agents across the Gulf states to attack Western interests and incite civil unrest in the event of a military strike against its nuclear programme, a former Iranian diplomat has told The Sunday Telegraph.

Spies working as teachers, doctors and nurses at Iranian-owned schools and hospitals have formed sleeper cells ready to be "unleashed" at the first sign of any serious threat to Teheran, it is claimed. Trained by Iranian intelligence services, they are also said to be recruiting fellow Shias in the region, whose communities have traditionally been marginalised by the Gulf's ruling Sunni Arab clans.

Were America or Israel to attack Iran, such cells would be instructed to foment long-dormant sectarian grievances and attack the ex-tensive American and European business interests in wealthy states such as Dubai and Saudi Arabia. Such a scenario would bring chaos to the Gulf, one of the few areas of the Middle East that remains prosperous and has largely pro-Western governments.

SYRIA READY WITH BIO-TERROR IF U.S. HITS IRAN

March 5, 2007 WorldNetDaily reported: "An American biodefense analyst living in Europe says if the U.S. invades Iran to halt its nuclear ambitions, Syria is ready to respond with weapons of mass destruction – specifically biological weapons.

"Syria is positioned to launch a biological attack on Israel or Europe should the U.S. attack Iran," Jill Bellamy-Dekker told WND. "The Syrians are embedding their biological weapons program into their commercial pharmaceuticals business and their veterinary vaccine-research facilities. The intelligence service oversees Syria's 'bio-farm' program and the Ministry of Defense is well interfaced into the effort."



Bellamy-Decker currently directs the Public Health Preparedness program for the European Homeland Security Association under the French High Committee for Civil Defense. She anticipates a variation of smallpox is the biological agent Syria would utilize. "The Syrians are also working on orthopox viruses that are related to smallpox," Bellamy-Decker said, "and it's a good way to get around international treaties against offensive biological weapons development. They work on camelpox as a cover for smallpox."...

WND asked Bellamy-Decker if the Syrians have any history of having used biological weapons. "I believe they are testing biological weapons right now, in Sudan, in the conflict in Darfur," she answered. "There is credible information about flyover activity in Darfur, where little parachutes have been dropped down on the population. This is consistent with dispersal methods in bioweapons attacks. I've also seen evidence of bodies that have been recovered from Darfur that look as if they had been exposed to biological weapons."

"The Syrians now consider biological weapons as part of their arsenal," Bellamy-Decker said. "The Syrian military is also beginning to plan the eventual integration of biological weapons in its tactical and strategic arsenals."..."

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