



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

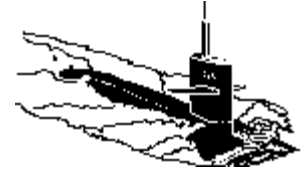
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 14 2007

U.S. PLANS TO OPEN WAR WITH CRUISE MISSILES

April 12, 2007 The Middle East Newsline reported: "The United States was said to be planning to launch a war with Iran with a salvo of cruise missiles against military and other strategic facilities.

A leading Russian analyst close to the government of President Vladimir Putin said the Bush administration has been preparing a major air strike against Iran. The analyst said the Iranian release of 15 British Marines abducted in early April has hampered but not canceled U.S. attack plans.



"Preparations to strike Iran's strategic facilities continue," Col. Gen. Leonid Ivashov, president of the Academy for Geopolitical Problems, said. "Three major groups of U.S. forces are still in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. Altogether, they have up to 450 cruise missiles on alert."

The assessment was the latest by government-financed Russian military analysts that warned of a U.S. war against Iran. Over the last two weeks, some analysts have raised the prospect of a U.S. air strike over the next few weeks."..."

COURT NIXES PASSOVER LAMB SACRIFICE AT TEMPLE MOUNT

April 3, 2007 Haaretz.com reported: "In their efforts to sacrifice a live animal at the Temple Mount, the New Sanhedrin Council adopted an almost underground modus operandi. Rabbis Adin Steinsaltz, Israel Ariel, Yishai Baved and their associates secretly located a butcher, found a Cohen hailing from a lineage 1,000 years old and worked out a plan to quickly erect an alter on the Temple Mount.

They tried to revive the customs of the ancient Sanhedrin tribunal, which was the highest judicial body for the Jewish people in Israel some 1,600 years ago. They sought to slaughter a sacrificial animal across from the Western Wall.

The activists, who belong to various religious circles such as the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement, also petitioned the High Court of Justice for the right to perform the ritual. Their plans were thwarted yesterday when the court rejected their request, ruling that "the rights of the petitioners to practice their faith are outweighed by other considerations such as public order and safety."

Despite the ruling, the followers decided to hold a colorful procession yesterday in Jerusalem, heading to the Western Wall along with two sheep. The Temple Mount Movement followers present were joined by partners from the Temple Institute, which has for years prepared the traditional holy tools and utensils for the Third Temple, according to Torah specifications. The spectacular display did not, however, persuade authorities to allow the participants to perform the practice.

Their petition to the court was by no means the first one. In recent years, the High Court of Justice rejected several such petitions filed by the Temple Mount Movement and other associations, dedicated to erecting the Third Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The court invariably cited the same reasons for its ruling.

In Passover 1991, dedicated believers decided it was time for action, and tried to sacrifice a lamb in the premises. They were, however, quickly stopped by police."..."

TERROR THREAT MORE SERIOUS THAN EVER, SAYS EUROPOL

April 4, 2009 The EU Observer reported: "The European law enforcement organisation, Europol, has come out with its first report on the terrorism situation in the EU saying that although it is not a new phenomenon in Europe, the threat to member states is more serious than ever.

The report – which gives an overview of terrorism activities in the EU's 27 member states – was presented to the European Parliament on Tuesday (10 April) where EU officials debated proposals for boosting the powers of the bloc's law enforcement arm to enhance police cooperation in fighting cross-border crime and terrorism.

According to the report, 706 individuals were arrested in 15 member states on suspicion of terrorism offences in 2006, half of those arrests involved threats from Islamic extremists.

Almost 500 terrorist attacks were reportedly carried out in 11 member states last year with separatists and nationalists in the Basque region of Spain and on the French island of Corsica responsible for most of the attacks. Only one terrorist attack in 2006 was registered as having to do with Islamic extremism, according to the report.

"Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in the EU. Nevertheless, in the twenty-first century, the threat posed by terrorism to member states is more serious than ever," the organisation said in a statement on Tuesday.

The statistics sound more serious than the reality, said head of Europol Max-Peter Ratzel, according to Danish Daily Berlingske Tidende. "Most of the attacks by far resulted in limited material damage and did not have the aim to kill. But the failed attacks in Germany and

London showed that Islamic terrorists aim for many victims," he added.

Intelligence police in Germany and the UK arrested persons allegedly planning to blow up trains and transatlantic air carriers respectively in July and August last year. There was one terrorist attack with a fatal outcome in 2006. Basque separatist group ETA bombed a parking lot at the Madrid airport on 30 December killing two men. Europol was set up in 1994 to combat serious international crime and terrorism across the bloc.

Brussels is keen to extend the agency's mandate to criminal issues that are not strictly related to organised crime and give the organisation greater access to various data on people under investigation, prompting concerns that privacy protection laws could be violated.

"These proposals give Europol a carte blanche to collect whatever information it wants, regardless of its relevance," said UK conservative MEP Syed Kammal in a statement.

Mr Ratzel countered that the kind of data sought by Europol would not threaten privacy. "We do not, for example, seek such information as data on consumers from supermarkets," he said, according to the Associated Press. But he said EU member countries should give greater access to personal data for fighting crimes such as child pornography, serial killings or violence at sporting events, which often have a cross-border element."

EU EXPECTED TO UNVEIL SPACE POLICY BEFORE SUMMER

March 10, 2007 The EU Observer reported: "After two years of political wrangling among governments, the EU is finally set to unveil a collective space policy for the 27-nation bloc, including implications for the military use of space.

Germany, currently sitting at the EU's helm, is expected to table the European space strategy before its six-month term presidency expires at the end of June, according to defensenews.com.

The strategy will not only focus on supporting Europe's commercial space sector, but also will touch on the military use of space and whether EU governments can continue holding on to their national military satellite programmes. According to EU officials cited by [defensenews](http://defensenews.com), it is economic pressure that will force EU capitals to speed up their efforts towards "a common military satellite environment". "..."

IRANIAN MISSILES CAN STRIKE EUROPE

April 12, 2007 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Iran has at least 20 missiles that could strike targets in Europe. A leading U.S. missile analyst said Iran has acquired an arsenal of BM-25 intermediate-range missiles that could strike Europe. Riki Ellison, president of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, said the U.S. missile defense umbrella was insufficient to protect against Iranian missiles.

"Iran has over 20 intermediate-range missiles that can reach continental Europe," Ellison said. "These 20 BM-25 missiles were purchased from North Korea in 2005 and are a variant of the Soviet SS-N-6 submarine-launched ballistic missile. With a range beyond 3,000 kilometers, these missiles pose a direct threat to central Europe."

In late February 2007, Iran launched a sub-orbit missile that traveled 150 kilometers into space. Ellison said this could mark a milestone in Iran's efforts to achieve intercontinental ballistic missile capability. "..."

RUSSIA THREATENING NEW COLD WAR OVER MISSILE DEFENCE

April 12, 2007 The Guardian.co.uk reported: "Russia is preparing its own military response to the US's controversial plans to build a new missile defence system in eastern Europe, according to Kremlin officials, in a move likely to increase fears of a cold war-style arms race. The Kremlin is considering active counter-measures in response to Washington's decision to base interceptor missiles and radar installations in Poland and the Czech Republic, a move Russia says will change "the world's strategic stability".



The Kremlin has not publicly spelt out its plans. But defence experts said its response is likely to include upgrading its nuclear missile arsenal so that it is harder to shoot down, putting more missiles on mobile launchers, and moving its fleet of nuclear submarines to the north pole, where they are virtually undetectable.

Russia could also bring the new US silos within the range of its Iskander missiles launched potentially from the nearby Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, they add. In an interview with the Guardian, the Kremlin's chief spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said Moscow felt betrayed by the Pentagon's move. "We were extremely concerned and disappointed. We were never informed in advance about these plans. It brings tremendous change to the strategic balance in Europe, and to the world's strategic stability."

He added: "We feel ourselves deceived. Potentially we will have to create alternatives to this but with low cost and higher efficiency." Any response would be within "existing technologies", he said. As well as military counter-measures, Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, also wanted "dialogue" and "negotiations", he added.

The Bush administration says the bases are designed to shoot down rogue missiles fired by Iran or North Korea. Its proposed system would be helpless against Russia's vast nuclear arsenal, it says. "..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*