



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MAY 19 2007

## ASIA NATIONS GAINING GROUND IN SPACE RACE

*May 17, 2007* The Voice of America News reported: "In January, China sent a missile into orbit to destroy an aging weather satellite. A month later, Japan completed a network of four spy satellites that can monitor every spot on the globe. And in April, India successfully test-launched a ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads across much of Asia and the Middle East.

The three countries are not only economic powerhouses - they are also the major contenders in Asia's accelerating race into outer space. All three are planning missions to the moon in a drive to build national prestige and technological dominance.

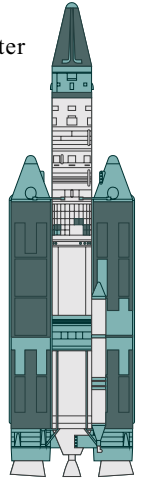
"What we can see is a triangular strategic competition in space," said Lawrence Prabhakar, an expert on nuclear and missile issues at Madras Christian College in the Indian city of Chennai. "So what we can see in possibly 10 or 15 years is an Asian space race of these three giants coming up with various strategies and technologies and platforms being launched up there."

China is the leader in Asia's space race. Its space program has been in the limelight since 2003, when China became only the third country to launch a manned spacecraft, behind the former Soviet Union and the United States. Beijing plans to launch its first lunar orbiter this year and to conduct a space walk next year. The goal is to send an astronaut to the moon.

Japan also is to launch its first lunar orbiter this year and plans to send a robotic explorer to the moon within three years. Manned missions are being considered.

Ajey Lele, a research fellow at India's Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, says New Delhi plans to send an unmanned mission to the moon next year and a manned mission to the moon by 2020. This year, India successfully recovered a capsule sent into space, a key step, Lele says, to pushing further into space.

"And then we will be in a position to send an unmanned sort of a vehicle, and then we will send a manned vehicle, that means a first Indian at space - from the point of view, the way the Chinese have done it in the year 2003 and subsequently they are doing it with good success," said Lele. "So that will keep continuing and then we will look toward the moon."..."



## SCIENTISTS ALLOWED TO CREATE HYBRID EMBRYOS

*May 17, 2007* The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Scientists will be allowed to create hybrid animal-human embryos for stem cell research after the Government dropped its opposition to the procedure. In what is seen by many as a U-turn, the Government published a draft bill that effectively sweeps away last year's ban, which was widely criticised by scientists, who warned that it would hinder medical breakthroughs.

Under the Human Tissue and Embryos Bill, scientists will be allowed to produce "cybrid" embryos that are 99.9 per cent human and 0.1 per cent animal and they will be permitted to alter human embryos by the introduction of animal DNA. Under the legislation proposed today, hybrid embryos would only be allowed for research into serious diseases, and scientists working with them would require a licence.

Teams of researchers based in London and Newcastle have applied for permission to create cybrid embryos to produce embryonic stem cells - the body's building blocks that grow into all other types of cells.

They want to use the stem cells to understand and provide new treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cystic fibrosis, motor neurone disease and Huntington's."..."

## MERKEL GIVES UP ON GOD IN EU TREATY

*May 16, 2007* The EU Observer reported: "German chancellor and Christian Democrat Angela Merkel has voiced regret there will be no reference to Christian roots in the revised EU treaty, amid controversial remarks about damage to churches in Turkish Cyprus at a meeting of religious VIPs in Brussels.

"You know what my personal view is. I would have liked the constitution to deliver such a reference. But as president of the European Council, I see there is not much of a chance," she said on the prospects of God appearing in a preamble to the EU text. "I can't hold out any hope," she added.

Her statement comes in the context of Germany's push to fix the broad outlines of a new EU treaty - still called a "constitution" by some - in late June, following months of bilateral consultations with EU states after the rejection of the original EU constitution in 2005.

The God debate is at least as old as the 2002 EU convention that wrote the original constitution, with Roman Catholic states like Poland and the Vatican pushing for the reference, but with France and the UK worried over national secularist traditions or damaging relations with Islamic EU candidate Turkey.

The EU's 50th birthday declaration in March rejuvenated the discussion. But in the end the birthday text made no reference to Christianity,

while praising "identities and diverse traditions of member states" and how the EU is "enriched" by a "variety of languages, cultures."

When the German chancellor, European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso and European Parliament president Hans-Gert Poettering met Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders at the EU capital on Tuesday (15 May), they stuck to safe ground on "universal" EU values such as "human dignity."

"Human dignity is at the basis of the values we share in Europe," Mr Barroso said. "We have discussed the need to respect freedom of religion not just in the EU but in all the countries that want to be part of the EU and in the wider world."..."

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## IRAN DEVELOPS, PROCURES CRUISE MISSILES

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*May 16, 2007* The Middle East Newline reported: "Iran has been procuring and developing a range of cruise missiles to prepare for war with the United States. A study by the Marshall Institute asserted that Iran has made a major investment in cruise missiles in an effort to bolster military capabilities. The report, entitled "The Cruise Missile Challenge: Designing a Defense Against Asymmetric Threats," said Iran has obtained technology, expertise and components from China and Russia.

"Iran is devoting additional resources to anti-ship cruise missile development and production toward the goal of modernizing its naval forces for potential employment in possible conflicts over control of Straits of Hormuz and U.S. and Western naval access to the Gulf region in general," the report authored by Jeff Kueter and Howard Kleinberg, said.

The report said Iran has deployed such Chinese-origin cruise missiles as Silkworm, Seersucker and the advanced Saccade. The institute also cited Iranian procurement of the Russian-origin AS-15 Kent, termed a thermonuclear-warhead-capable strategic cruise missile. The Kent was said to have been exported by Ukraine."..."

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## ARTIFACTS FROM TIME OF KINGS DAVID AND SOLOMON REVEALED

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*May 17, 2007* IsraelNationalNews.com reported: "In honor of Jerusalem Day, which begins Tuesday night, archaeologists revealed a number of seals from the time of the Biblical Kings David and Solomon. The seals, along with other recently uncovered artifacts, were displayed for the first time on Monday, at a conference marking 40 years since the liberation and reunification of Jerusalem by the modern State of Israel.

The Bible-period artifacts were unearthed during archaeological excavations underway in Ir David, the City of David, below Jerusalem's Old City to the east. The specific artifacts on display on Monday were found at the Beit HaMaayan (well-house) dig, overseen by Haifa University's Archaeology Department Director, Professor Ronny Reich.

The greatest scientific and public interest was focused on more than 100 seals and signet rings, used as a means of authentication for written papyrus documents, from the time of the reigns of Kings David and Solomon. The seals bear various markings that, when deciphered, indicate the sender of the document and his or her location. The large number of such seals, archaeologists explained, indicate that the City of David area was a commercial and trading center...

Similar seals and signets have been found at various excavation sites around Jerusalem over the past decade. Some of those seals bear names of royal advisors and servants mentioned in various Biblical accounts of the reigns of Jewish monarchs.

In 2005, a Hebrew University archaeologist and a leading authority on ancient Jerusalem, Dr. Eilat Mazar uncovered a clay seal in what she claimed served as the residential palace of Jewish kings from King David until the destruction of the First Temple, for a period of 450 years. That seal, dated from about 580 BCE, bears the name Yehuchal Ben-Sheleimiya, who is identified as a royal envoy and court minister sent by King Zedekiah to the prophet Jeremiah (in chapters 37 and 38 of the Bible's Book of Jeremiah)."

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## AHMADINEJAD WARNS US AGAINST MILITARY ACTION

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*May 14, 2007* SpaceWar.com reported: "President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned on Monday that Iran would retaliate severely to any possible attack by the United States over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme. "They (the Americans) understand that if they should make this mistake, the retaliation of the Iranian people will be severe and they will repent," he told reporters at the end of a landmark visit to the United Arab Emirates.

Ahmadinejad, who was speaking three days after US Vice President Dick Cheney warned that the United States would not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, said the era when a state could come from "thousands of miles away" to strike another country had gone. "They cannot strike Iran. The Iranian people are able to retaliate. They are able to protect and defend themselves well," he said in Farsi through an interpreter.

Ahmadinejad repeated Tehran's assertions that its nuclear programme, which the United States suspects is a cover for developing atomic weapons, was being pursued "within the context of the law" in keeping with its "right to acquire this energy."

He dismissed Cheney's warnings made from the hangar deck of a US aircraft carrier in the Gulf on Friday, saying: "The message did not contain anything new."..."

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