



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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BUSH SAYS IRAN MUST BE PREVENTED FROM GETTING NUKES TO AVOID WW III

October 18, 2007 VOA News reported: "President Bush says world leaders risk bringing about World War Three if they do not do more to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

Mr. Bush said at a White House news conference Wednesday that he takes the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran very seriously. He noted that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said Israel should be destroyed. Mr. Bush said the United States will continue to push for tighter economic sanctions on Iran. He said that those he calls "responsible folks" inside Iran will get tired of isolation and decide Iran's current policy is not worth it.

After meeting with President Ahmadinejad in Iran earlier this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed his support for Iran's nuclear energy program. He has also said he sees no evidence Iran is looking to build a nuclear bomb.

Mr. Bush said Wednesday he looks forward to having Mr. Putin clarify his remarks. He said Mr. Putin told him last month at the APEC summit in Australia that the world must ensure that Iran does not have the capacity to build a nuclear weapon.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larajani said Wednesday Mr. Putin has put forward a proposal regarding Iran's nuclear program during talks with Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Larajani did not elaborate."..."

PERES ON IRAN: SIMILAR THING HAPPENED WITH HITLER

October 18, 2007 YnetNews.com reported: "The world must open its eyes before it is too late," President Shimon Peres said Thursday in reference to the Iranian nuclear threat.

"Many times in history it was too late to prevent horrors and bloodshed, for instance with Stalin and Hitler. We are nearing a similar turn of events with Ahmadinejad. We must not ignore Iran's aspiration to become a religious, extremist Persian empire that would rule the entire Mideast," Peres said in a special statement issued by his office.

"The Iranian leader is publicly calling for Israel's destruction and investing billions of dollars in developing long-range missiles with the clear intent of loading them with nuclear warheads," the president stressed.

Referring to Russia President Vladimir Putin's recent support of Iran, Peres said that "even if Putin says he's not sure that Iran is developing nuclear power for military purposes, everybody knows what Iran's true intentions are, and many intelligence branches around the world have concrete proof indicating that Iran is manufacturing nuclear arms for war and killing."

JAPAN AND CHINA LEAD FLIGHT FROM THE DOLLAR

October 18, 2007 Telegraph.co.uk reported: "Japan and China led a record withdrawal of foreign funds from the United States in August, heightening fears of a fresh slide in the dollar and a spike in US bond yields.

Data from the US Treasury showed outflows of \$163bn (£80bn) from all forms of US investments. "These numbers are absolutely stunning," said Marc Ostwald, an economist at Insinger de Beaufort. Asian investors dumped \$52bn worth of US Treasury bonds alone, led by Japan (\$23bn), China (\$14.2bn) and Taiwan (\$5bn). It is the first time since 1998 that foreigners have, on balance, sold Treasuries.

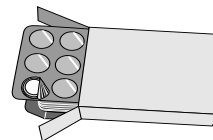
Mr Ostwald warned that US bond yields could start to rise again unless the outflows reverse quickly. "Woe betide US Treasuries if inflation does not remain benign," he said.

The release comes a day after the IMF warned that the dollar was still overvalued and likely to face "some depreciation in the medium term". "...The Greenback has already fallen below parity against the Canadian Loonie for the first time since 1976 and has touched record lows against a global basket. It closed at \$2.032 against the pound.

David Woo, an analyst at Barclays Capital, said Washington was happy to see the dollar slide. "They don't care so long as the fall is not disorderly. They see it as a way of correcting the deficit." he said."..."

MAINE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO OFFER THE PILL

October 17, 2007 My Way News reported: "Pupils at a city middle school will be able to get birth control pills and patches at their student health center after the local school board approved the proposal Wednesday evening. The plan, offered by city health officials, makes King Middle School the first middle school in Maine to make a full range of contraception available to students in grades 6 through 8, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services.



There are no national figures on how many middle schools, where most students range in age from 11 to 13, provide such services.

"It's very rare that middle schools do this," said Divya Mohan, a spokeswoman for the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care. The Portland School Committee voted 5-2 for the measure.

Chairman John Coynie voted against it, saying he felt providing the birth control was a parental responsibility. The other no vote came from Ben Meiklejohn, who said the consent form does not clearly define the services being offered. Opponents cited religious and health objections."..."

PUTIN WARNS AGAINST USE OF FORCE ON LANDMARK VISIT TO IRAN

October 16, 2007 The VOA reported: "On a landmark visit to Iran, Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned against the use of military force in the Caspian region. The Russian leader was in Tehran for a summit of the five Caspian Sea nations. It was the first time a Kremlin chief has visited Iran since World War II.

Speaking in Tehran, President Putin said no Caspian nation should let its territory be used to attack another Caspian state. The leaders of all five countries bordering the Caspian Sea - Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan - signed onto that principle in the summit's closing declaration.

The statement is seen as a reference to rumors that the United States is considering cooperating with a Caspian nation to launch a military action against Iran, because of its nuclear program. The rumors have focused on Azerbaijan. The summit declaration included a statement of support for Iran's right to develop peaceful nuclear energy.

Mr. Putin said Russia is the only country that is helping Iran with its nuclear program which the Russian leader said is for peaceful uses. He added that the summit declaration refers to the commitment by all five Caspian nations to abide by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Mr. Putin's trip is being watched closely for signs of movement in the nuclear standoff between Iran and the West. After the summit, the Iranian and Russian leaders went into direct talks focusing on the nuclear issue."..."

IMF SAYS DOLLAR 'OVERVALUED'

October 17, 2007 FT.com reported: "Currency traders were given a green light to continue selling the US dollar on Wednesday, as the International Monetary Fund said the greenback "remains overvalued" and rejected claims the euro had risen too far.

Contradicting Rodrigo Rato, the outgoing IMF managing director, who last week said "right now the dollar is undervalued", the fund's staff conclude the dollar is still too high. The multilateral lender also forecast slower growth in 2008 at 4.75 per cent, compared with 5.2 per cent expected this year.



The IMF's new stance on the dollar will counter the arguments to the contrary made by France and some other eurozone members at this weekend's meetings of the Group of Seven leading economies and the IMF's governing body. They have been urging a change in language to temper the fall in the dollar, which dropped by more than 4 per cent against the euro in September alone.



The IMF, however, has little sympathy for struggling eurozone exporters hit by the currency's rise. It says that even after its recent rise, the euro "continues to trade in a range broadly consistent with medium-term fundamentals".

Apart from the dollar, the IMF's economists also think sterling is overvalued, while the Japanese yen and the Chinese renmimbi remain too cheap compared with other currencies."..."

Even with slower growth forecast for the US and a weaker dollar, the IMF sees little improvement in the world's huge trade imbalances, embodied in the US trade deficit and corresponding surpluses in Asia and in oil exporters.

The Fund thinks that the US current account deficit will remain close to 1.5 per cent of world output until 2012, raising the likelihood of a disorderly plunge in the dollar and protectionism growing over the next few years."

STAPH INFECTIONS REPORTED AT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

October 17, 2007 The New York Times reported: "A high school student hospitalized for more than a week with an antibiotic-resistant staph infection died on Monday, as schools across the country were reporting outbreaks of staph infections, including the antibiotic-resistant strain.

Health and education officials have reported that staph infections, including the serious MRSA strain, have spread through schools nationwide in recent weeks.

MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) is a strain of staph bacteria that does not respond to penicillin or related antibiotics, though it can be treated with other drugs. The infection can be spread by skin-to-skin contact or through sharing an item, like a towel or a piece of sports equipment, that has been used by an infected person, particularly one with an open wound.

The news of staff infections spreading through schools coincides with a report by doctors at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which found that nearly 19,000 people had died in the United States in 2005 after an MRSA infection...

If the mortality estimates are correct, the number of deaths associated with the MRSA germ would exceed those attributed to HIV-AIDS, Parkinson's disease, emphysema or homicide each year."..."