

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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RUSSIAN MILITARY CHIEF WARNS OF US ANTI-MISSILE SHIELD IMPACT

December 14, 2006 SpaceWar.com reported: "Russia disapproves of U.S. plans to deploy an anti-missile shield in Eastern Europe, and believes the move may adversely affect global as well as European security, the head of the Russian armed forces' general staff said Wednesday. Washington is considering placing a missile defense system in Poland or the Czech Republic, which it says will protect Europe and the United States against hostile missiles from certain rogue states in Asia, such as North Korea.

Speaking to a gathering of foreign military attaches in Moscow, Yuri Baluyevsky said: "The creation of a U.S. anti-missile base cannot be viewed otherwise than as a major reconfiguration of the American military presence. Vanguard groupings of the U.S. armed forces in Europe have until now had no strategic components. This raises the question as to who U.S. anti-missile plans are really targeted against, and what kind of implications they may have for Russia and Europe at large."

He dismissed assurances that the base's buildup will have no noticeable effect on Russia's nuclear deterrent potential. "An ABM area near Europe's Russian borders is an unfriendly step, to put it mildly, and an unfriendly signal," he said. "The potential interception zone for ballistic missiles from this area will span much of Russia's European territory."

"Given that its [the shield's] creation may prompt other countries to step up their activities in missile building, the situation in the longer term appears all the more alarming. It is clearly fraught with the potential for a nuclear arms race, which will have a negative impact on global strategic stability."..."

ISRAEL WILL 'SOON BE WIPED OUT': IRAN

December 13, 2006 The National Post reported: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday told delegates at an international conference questioning the Holocaust that Israel's days are numbered. Mr. Ahmadinejad, who has sparked international outcry by referring to the killing of six million Jews in the Second World War as a "myth" and calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map," launched another verbal attack on the Jewish state.

"Thanks to people's wishes and God's will, the trend for the existence of the Zionist regime is downwards and this is what God has promised and what all nations want," he said. "Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out."

The Iranian President's remarks were condemned in Washington. U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters that the Iranian President's behaviour was "despicable" and called his comment "absolutely outrageous."

Stephen Harper yesterday said the idea of conference dedicated to denying the Holocaust is an offence to all Canadians.

The Prime Minister added: "I want to condemn, in the strongest terms, this latest example of anti-Israeli and racist statements from the President of Iran."

The Vatican, Germany and the European Commission added their voices to others -- such as the United States and Israel -- who have condemned the Tehran meeting."..."

GCC WANTS TO MATCH IRAN'S NUKE PROGRAM

December 13, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: "The Gulf Cooperation Council has decided to match Iran's nuclear program. GCC leaders intend to study the feasibility of a nuclear energy program that would include all six member states. Gulf Arab leaders said any nuclear program would be peaceful.

"The higher committee ordered a GCC-wide study to be carried out to create a joint program in nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, according to international standards and arrangements," a GCC communique said on Dec. 10.

Arab diplomats said the GCC decision was meant to challenge Iran's nuclear program. Teheran, denying full access to the International Atomic Energy Agency, has also insisted that its nuclear program was civilian."..."

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL WARNS: SYRIA GEARING UP FOR CONFRONTATION

December 12, 2006 YnetNews.com reported: "Yossi Baidatz, head of the Research Division at the Military Intelligence Branch, told the cabinet Sunday that Syrian President Bashar Assad was working on two different fronts simultaneously -- the diplomatic and the military one.

On the one hand, he (Assad) doesn't rule out the possibility of a diplomatic settlement with Israel, but on the other hand he is preparing his forces for a military confrontation, by enhancing the production of long-range missiles and moving antitank missiles close to the Golan Heights border. From his point of view, the two do not contradict each other," Baidatz explained.

During his briefing, Baidatz said that Damascus was still involved in developments in Lebanon, and that the country was concerned regarding the international tribunal on former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's murder.

Baidatz stated that the Syrian President has been conducting intensive diplomatic negotiations in the last two weeks, in hope of capitalizing on what he believes is an international opening for talks."..."

OLMERT DECLINES TO RULE OUT MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAN

December 9, 2006 Ha'aretz.com reported: "Prime Minister Ehud Olmert called for more dramatic measures to be taken against Iran and declined to rule out a military attack against Tehran in an interview released Saturday with Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine.

His statements were released the day Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced an expansion of his country's uranium enrichment activities, in defiance of an imminent United Nations move to sanction Tehran. When asked if he would not rule out a military strike against Tehran, Olmert replied: "I rule nothing out."

Olmert criticized the international community's hesitation in dealing with Ahmadinejad. According to the premier, the West fears Iran's nuclear program is aimed at developing nuclear weapons but Tehran denies this. "I am anything but happy," Olmert was quoted as saying in an interview released ahead of publication on Sunday.

"I expect significantly more dramatic steps to be taken. Here is a leader who says openly that it is his aim to wipe Israel off the map. Israel is a member of the United Nations."

"That someone says such a thing these days is absolutely criminal," he told the German magazine.

Olmert repeated he was prepared to withdraw from the majority of settlements in the West Bank. "A prime minister should not make promises that he cannot keep but my message is clear: I am prepared to give up regions. That means that I am ready to evacuate territories. You know how hard this is," he told *Der Spiegel*."..."

SOMALIA TOWN THREATENS TO BEHEAD PEOPLE WHO DON'T PRAY 5 TIMES DAILY

December 6, 2006 The Associated Press reported: "Residents of a southern Somalia town who do not pray five times a day will be beheaded, an official said Wednesday, adding the edict will be implemented in three days.

Shops, tea houses and other public places in Bulo Burto, about 124 miles northeast of the capital, Mogadishu, should be closed during prayer time and no one should be on the streets, said Sheik Hussein Barre Rage, the chairman of the town's Islamic court. His court is part of a network backed by armed militiamen that has taken control of much of southern Somalia in recent months, bringing a strict interpretation of Islam that is alien to many Somalis.

Those who do not follow the prayer edict after three days have elapsed, "will definitely be beheaded according to Islamic law," Rage told the AP by phone. "As Muslims we should practice Islam fully, not in part, and that is what our religion enjoins us to do."

He said the edict, which covered only Bulo Burto, was being announced over loudspeakers throughout the town.

Somalia's Islamic courts have made varying interpretations of Koranic Law, some applying a more strict and radical version of Islam than others. Some of the courts have introduced public executions, floggings of convicts, bans on women swimming in Mogadishu's public beaches and on the sale and chewing of khat, a leafy stimulant consumed across the Horn of Africa and in the Middle East."..."

SOMALIA'S ISLAMISTS PREPARE FOR WAR WITH ETHIOPIA

December 14, 2006 The International Herald Tribune reported: "The stadium was packed, the guns were cocked and even the drenching rain could not douse the jihadist fire. Thousands of Somalis, from fully veiled, machine-gun toting women to little boys in baggy fatigues, were gathered to rally against what they called foreign aggression. As a squall blew in, they punched wet fists into the air and yelled, "Allah Akbar," God is great.



"I am ready to die," said Osama Abdi Rahim, dressed head-to-toe in camouflage and marching around with a loaded Kalashnikov. He is 7 years old. The inevitability of war hangs over Mogadishu, Somalia's bullet-pocked seaside capital. Unlike the internal anarchy that has consumed the country for 15 years, the looming battle is now with Ethiopia, threatening to further destabilize an already troubled region.

In the past week, the militant Islamists in control of Mogadishu and much of the rest of the country have initiated a food drive, a money drive and an AK-47 assault rifle drive, sending doctors and nurses, along with countless young soldiers, to the front lines...

Their troops, which United Nations officials have said are secretly getting weapons from several Arab states and Eritrea, have encircled Baidoa and are vowing to attack the Ethiopian forces unless they leave."..."

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