



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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POTENTIAL STRIKE AGAINST U.S. OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY?

Nov 29, 2001 CNN reports: "The U.S. oil and gas industry has put itself on an increased security alert following an FBI warning that followers of Osama bin Laden might be planning strikes, according to industry sources. The FBI issued an alert Tuesday based on uncorroborated information that Osama bin Laden or Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar may have approved plans to attack natural gas supplies in the United States if either was captured or killed, one source said. The FBI did not elaborate, the source said. The FBI warning reportedly came from a 'source of undetermined reliability,' the source said. Attorney General John Ashcroft said Monday that a warning was issued 10 to 12 days ago after consultations with energy industry officials. 'We take these kinds of reports seriously,' Ashcroft said at a Washington news conference..."

TURKEY SAYS NO TO USE OF NATO MILITARY ASSETS BY EU RAPID REACTION FORCE



Nov 28, 2001 *The EU Observer* reports: "Representatives of Turkey, the UK and the United States are to meet on Monday in Ankara to seek to broker a deal on the EU use of NATO military assets, which is currently being blocked by Turkey. The Turkish defense minister Sabahattin Cakmakoglu last Tuesday told the press in Brussels that Turkey is open and willing to compromise but not willing to commit itself to reaching a deal.

Turkey's veto to the use of NATO military assets by the future EU rapid reaction force, to be in place in 2003, is blocking the development of a European Security and Defense Policy. The government in Ankara insists that Turkey must be involved in the decision-making of the European defense policy if the EU is to use NATO's military capabilities.

Turkey, a NATO member but an unsuccessful EU aspirant, does not want an organization of which its historical rival Greece is a member, to use the Atlantic Alliance assets to launch operations on which Turkey has no input. On the other hand, the EU countries are refusing to give Turkey decision-making powers on the EU-led operations and offer to consult Ankara. An agreement on the issue is needed before the Laeken European Summit, of December 14-15, when the Belgian presidency of the European Union want to declare the EU rapid reaction force operational..."

BUSH SENDS IRAQ A SOBER MESSAGE

Nov 27, 2001 CNN reports: "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should take President Bush's demand Monday that Iraq allow international weapons inspections to resume as a 'very sober, chilling message,' Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

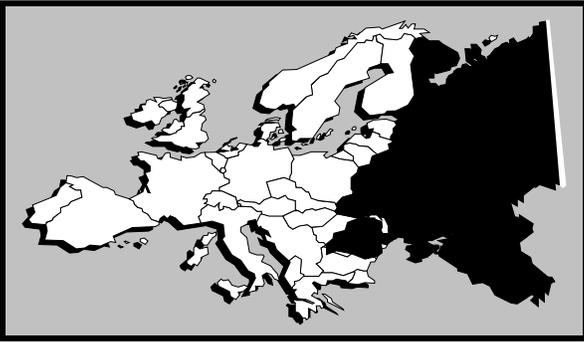
During a Rose Garden appearance, Bush said Hussein 'needs to let inspectors back in his country to show us that he is not developing weapons of mass destruction.' Asked what would happen if the Iraqi leader did not, Bush said, 'He'll find out.'

International weapons inspectors went into Iraq after the Gulf War to check for evidence of

chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. They left ahead of U.S.-British airstrikes in December 1998 and Hussein has not allowed them to return.

Powell, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff helped lead the military campaign against Hussein a decade ago, said the Iraqi leader 'should see it as a very sober, chilling message.'..."

FRANCE AND GERMANY PUSH FOR FEDERATION



United States of Europe

Nov 26, 2001 *The EU Observer* reports: "The leaders of France and Germany on Friday called for a European federation of nation states and for an EU constitution, in a common declaration on the future of Europe. They also urged the creation, at longer term, of a European Border Police, the reinforcing of Europol, the setting up of an integrated police force to fight against terrorism, and for strengthening the judicial cooperation with a view to creating a European prosecutor. They also believe that the European military force should have the mandate to fight against international terrorism.

French President Jacques Chirac, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder

said in their joint declaration that a European constitution would be 'an essential step in the historical process of European integration.' Moreover, they call for the Charter of Fundamental Rights declared at the Nice summit to be integrated into the future constitution.

The three leaders also urge a clear and transparent organization of competences and for the division of treaties in a constitutional party and a party which is easier to change. They are open to a broad mandate for the Convention to reflect on the future of Europe, to include all themes linked to EU reforms..."

PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE DETECTED OUTSIDE SOLAR SYSTEM

Nov 28, 2001 *Space.com* reports: "Astronomers announced today the first detection of an atmosphere around a planet orbiting another star, a critical first step in understanding the skies above planets outside our solar system. Until now, scientists could only assume that such objects have atmospheres, as do the planets in our solar system. 'For the first time, we can begin to chart the atmosphere around other planets,' said Timothy Brown of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. The discovery was made using the Hubble Space Telescope..."

Extrasolar planet discoveries (planets outside of our own solar system) have been dramatic in recent years. The first one was detected in 1995. In 1999, the first multi-planet system outside our own was discovered. Now there is evidence for more than 6 dozen planets around various other stars, with new discoveries being announced monthly...

All of the exoplanets found so far are very large -- many are bigger than Jupiter. The bulk of them orbit very close to their host stars, some closer than Mercury is to our Sun. Conventional theories can't explain how planets could form or evolve so large and close to a star, so understanding their atmospheres may shed light on that. 'It's hugely exciting to nail down anything at all about something as mysterious as planets outside our solar system,' Brown said..."