



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

UCG/A, ARIZONA

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ARAFAT GIVEN 12-HOUR ULTIMATUM BY ISRAEL

Dec 6, 2001 *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has in principle agreed to arrest some 36 Palestinian militants as demanded by Israel, but PA officials said it will be difficult for him to meet Israel's 12-hour ultimatum, especially since Israel is hindering the movement of his security forces. 'We will continue our efforts to finish these groups [Hamas and Islamic Jihad]... but it is not fair to give us a 12-hour ultimatum - it is not practical to ask Arafat to finish this in such a short time,' said Palestinian Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Nabil Amr. 'What is important is that Yasser Arafat did take the decision to fight terror... but if Israel continues to insist on the ultimatum and will continue with its military strikes against the PA, I am afraid our efforts will fail.' Privately, however, Palestinian officials said the PA was taking the ultimatum seriously, and trying to do its best to show to the US and the world that it is serious..."



EU CONSIDERS MILITARY FORCE FOR COMMON DEFENSE

Dec 1, 2001 *The EU Observer* reports: "The EU is studying the possibility of extending the mandate of the future EU reaction force beyond crisis management and peace keeping and eventually include common defense, with a view to coping with the new security challenges unveiled by the terrorist attacks on the United States, on September 11. The Belgian prime minister Guy Verhofstadt, current president of the European Council, told *EUobserver* that he sees a consensus emerging on the need for the EU to extend its competences on defense, justice and home affairs matters.

The ministers of defense of the EU countries are currently preparing for the EU heads of states a report on the new security environment the Union has to face. Moreover, the high representative for foreign policy Javier Solana was tasked to study the possibility of extending the mandate of the future EU force to include the fight against terrorism.

Belgian prime minister believes a consensus of going beyond the initial mandate concerning peace keeping operations outside the Union is emerging: 'In all discussions I held, in the Franco-German declaration, in the speech of Tony Blair, and also in the resolution of the European Parliament, yesterday, there has been the same demand, concerning the necessary extension of the European policy on defense, security, foreign policy, police, justice, asylum, immigration, fight against terrorism and organized crime. I believe the idea has made its way step by step, and the 11 of September attacks were the element that accelerated that. I do not exaggerate when I say there is a consensus on that point.' ..."

3RD TEMPLE CORNERSTONE FORBIDDEN BY HIGH COURT

Dec 6, 2001 *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "The High Court of Justice has rejected a petition by the Temple Mount Faithful requesting that the movement be allowed to perform a cornerstone laying ceremony for the Third Temple during Hanukkah.

The court accepted the opinion of the police that such a ceremony would ignite violent Palestinian disturbances that could spread beyond the Temple Mount compound, Army Radio reported..."

AMERICA'S PLAN FOR A WAR AGAINST IRAQ

Dec 3, 2001 The London Observer reports: "America intends to depose Saddam Hussein by giving armed support to Iraqi opposition forces across the country, The Observer has learnt. President George W. Bush has ordered the CIA and his senior military commanders to draw up detailed plans for a military operation that could begin within months.

The plan, opposed by Tony Blair and other European Union leaders, threatens to blow apart the increasingly shaky international consensus behind the US-led 'war on terrorism'. It envisages a combined operation with US bombers targeting key military installations while US forces assist opposition groups in the North and South of the country in a stage-managed uprising. One version of the plan would have US forces fighting on the ground..."

TURKEY BRACES FOR WAR WITH BAGHDAD

Dec 2, 2001 The World Tribune reports: "Turkey has bolstered its border with Iraq to prepare for any U.S.-led effort to topple the regime of President Saddam Hussein. The government of Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit has become increasingly convinced that the United States will attack Baghdad. Turkish officials said they believe Washington will seek Ankara's support in any such campaign. Turkish sources said military troops have replaced gendarmerie units deployed in the border region with Iraq. The troops are meant to protect the border and stop any influx of refugees from Iraq, *Middle East Newslines* reported. The buildup comes amid plans by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit Ankara next week. Turkish Defense Minister Sabahattin Cakmakoglu said he does not rule out reconsidering Ankara's opposition to any U.S.-led attack on Saddam. 'We repeated several times that Turkey doesn't want an operation in Iraq,' Cakmakoglu said. 'However, new conditions might call for new assessments.' ..."



Iraq

ARAB LEADERS EXAMINE UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND

Dec 2, 2001 The Middle East Newslines reports: "Gulf Arab leaders are examining a proposal to create a unified military command to ensure regional defense. The Gulf Cooperation Council has submitted the proposal for approval by leaders of the six member states. The GCC summit is scheduled to be held in Muscat on Dec. 30.

Under the proposal, the GCC will form a Supreme Joint GCC Defense Council meant to ensure military coordination, procurement and exercises required for regional defense. Officials said the plan was discussed by GCC foreign ministers during their meeting in Muscat on Tuesday.

'It has been included as a major item on the agenda for the forthcoming summit as part of the campaign to forge greater military unity in the region,' GCC Jamil Ibrahim Al Hujailan said.

GCC members agreed on a defense pact a year ago that would require all six states to respond to a foreign attack. The GCC plans to hold a joint military exercise in Oman in 2003. Oman has lobbied for increased regional military activities..."