



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

UCGIA, ARIZONA

15 DECEMBER 2001

SMALLPOX WOULD SPREAD RAPIDLY IN MODERN WORLD

Dec 13, 2001 Reuters reports: "If introduced into America or Europe, smallpox would spread rapidly at first, infecting 6 to 12 people for each individual already infected. As steps were taken to stymie the spread of the disease--including mass vaccination campaigns, restriction of infected individuals' movement and quarantines--the rate of disease spread would fall and eventually be contained.



Nonetheless, 'significant epidemics could result, particularly if there were delays in detecting the first cases or in setting up effective public health interventions,' Drs. Raymond Gani and Steve Leach of the Center for Applied Microbiology and Research in Salisbury, UK, write in the December 13th issue of Nature.

Smallpox was eradicated by 1979 and vaccination against the disease gradually ended around the world. But stockpiles of the smallpox virus remain in laboratories in the US, Russia and possibly other nations. Recent fears of bioterrorism have ignited concerns that these stockpiles could be used to introduce the potentially deadly disease into the population, which is at present ill-prepared to deal with a potential outbreak, according to researchers..."

AMERICAN TALIBAN SAYS BIO STRIKE ON U.S. NEAR

Dec 12, 2001 The Washington Times reports: "An American Taliban fighter held captive by Marines in Afghanistan has told American officials that al Qaeda's next attack on the United States will take place in days and involve biological weapons, U.S. intelligence officials told The Washington Times.

John Walker Lindh, the Taliban guerrilla captured near Mazar-e-Sharif, said in intelligence debriefings at the U.S. Marine Corps base near Kandahar that 'Phase II' of al Qaeda's war against the United States will occur at the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends Sunday.

Mr. Lindh told U.S. intelligence officials that the Ramadan attack will involve the use of biological weapons.

A third phase of al Qaeda's war on the United States will result in the destruction of the entire country, the Islamic convert stated.

The officials said they have questioned the credibility of Mr. Lindh's claim because of his relatively low-level position. Still, the information was among other intelligence reports that led the Bush administration to issue a public warning last week about a possible terrorist attack, the officials said..."

PRE-POSITIONING COMPLETED IN IRAQ

Dec 12, 2001 The Middle East Newsline reports: “The United States has completed the pre-positioning of main battle tanks and combat vehicles in Kuwait to prepare for any confrontation with Iraq.

U.S. defense officials said the military resupply in the sheikdom took place over the last month. They said the effort was overseen by the U.S. Army, which maintains about 4,000 soldiers in Kuwait.

The U.S. Army, the officials said, brought an undisclosed number of M1A2 Abrams tanks, M2A2 Bradleys and a range of other combat vehicles. The pre-positioning effort was taken by Task Force 1-34, which is leaving the sheikdom after a four month tour. The task force is composed of 1,500 soldiers and personnel. The task force also trained Kuwaiti Army troops. Last week, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki visited Kuwait and inspected the U.S. war stocks...”

SADDAM OPPOSITION COORDINATES MILITARY COALITION

Dec 11, 2001 The Middle East Newsline reports: “The Iraqi opposition is quietly coordinating a military coalition meant to topple the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

Opposition sources said they are recruiting political and former officers to join a military council that would plan a campaign against Saddam. They said the council would seek to capitalize on the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan and the prospect that Washington would soon target the Saddam regime.

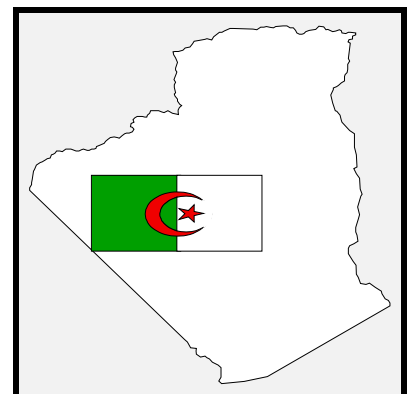
The London-based Iraqi National Congress has urged Washington to support an insurgency campaign against Saddam. The INC wants such a campaign to be based in the autonomous Kurdish zone in northern Iraq and would include both reconnaissance operations as well as anti-Saddam radio broadcasts.

On Monday, a U.S. delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ryan Walker is expected to hold talks with Kurdish leaders in northern Iraq. The London-based A-Sharq Al Awsat reported on Monday that Walker will renew the U.S. commitment to protect the autonomous Kurdish zone from any attack by Saddam...”

ALGERIA ROCKED BY ISLAMIC MASSACRE

Dec 10, 2001 The Middle East Newsline reports: “Islamic insurgents have massacred 17 civilians in the worst attack during the current Muslim fast month of Ramadan. The attack was reported on late Thursday in the town of Cadat about 130 kilometers southwest of the capital Algiers. So far, 48 people were reported killed in Islamic attacks during Ramadan.

Algerian media reports said most of the victims shot dead were youngsters from an extended family. The men were in mosque during the massacre. Algerian security forces have launched a search of Ein Defla province, where the attack took place. Authorities did not provide details...”



Algeria