



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

UCG/A, OAKLAND

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## MASTER STEM CELL DISCOVERED

*Jan 24, 2002 NewScientist.com* reports: "A stem cell has been found in adults that can turn into every single tissue in the body. It might turn out to be the most important cell ever discovered.

Until now, only stem cells from early embryos were thought to have such properties. If the finding is confirmed, it will mean cells from your own body could one day be turned into all sorts of perfectly matched replacement tissues and even organs.

If so, there would be no need to resort to therapeutic cloning - cloning people to get matching stem cells from the resulting embryos. Nor would you have to genetically engineer embryonic stem cells (ESCs) to create a 'one cell fits all' line that does not trigger immune rejection. The discovery of such versatile adult stem cells will also fan the debate about whether embryonic stem cell research is justified.

'The work is very exciting,' says Ihor Lemischka of Princeton University. 'They can differentiate into pretty much everything that an embryonic stem cell can differentiate into.'..."

## RUSSIA WARNS AMERICA ABOUT IRAQ

*Jan 24, 2002 The Jordan Times* reports: "Russia warned Tuesday of 'catastrophic' results in the Middle East if the United States widens its so-called 'anti-terrorist' war to attack Baghdad.



The statement came as Aziz prepared to visit Moscow for talks. 'If the Americans decide to deliver a blow to Iraq, it will be the worst-case scenario that would lead to catastrophic consequences for the region,' senior foreign ministry official Nikolai Kartuzov told the ITAR-TASS news agency. 'Nobody wants to see such a development,' said Kartuzov, Russia's ambassador-at-large to Iraq, adding that Moscow sees 'no reasons' for US action against Iraq and its leader Saddam.

'There is no evidence of Baghdad's complicity in the events of September 11, nor is there proof that Iraq supports terrorists,' the diplomat said, adding the Iraqi question required a 'political settlement.'..."

**HAMAS DECLARES ALL-OUT WAR ON ISRAEL** January 23, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Hamis will commence a total war against Israel, the organization's leadership in the Gaza Strip said this afternoon in a released statement.

The statement said Hamas will make use of all possible means to attack Israeli targets and will operate on all fronts, Israel Radio reported. The statement was made in the wake of an IDF commando raid in Nablus in which four senior Hamas operatives were shot dead in a gun battle..."

## ARAB NATIONS OPPOSE U.S. ATTACK ON IRAQ

*Jan 21, 2002 Ha'aretz* reports: "The Arab League Secretary-General, Amr Moussa, said Saturday that the Arab countries oppose an American attack on Iraq. Moussa was speaking in Baghdad, following a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

On Friday, Moussa also addressed the issue of a potential U.S. strike against Iraq, as part of its war on terrorism. Moussa said, 'Our stance is obvious and known. On this subject there is a united Arab stand, an Arab consensus, against attacking any Arab country.'

The Secretary-General said he would convey a new Iraqi initiative to UN and Arab leaders after meeting with Hussein. 'The president has asked me to convey to the United Nations secretary-general (Kofi Annan) and to Arab leaders a certain stance and certain points within the context of the current and expected developments,' he said.

Moussa did not elaborate on the new Iraqi ideas but said: 'The subject is very important and I may be able to speak about it in the future.' He described his talks with Saddam as 'very important and specific.'..."

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## SYRIA EQUATES ISRAELI ACTION WITH ATTACKS ON WTC

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*Jan 20, 2002 Reuters* reports: "Syria on Friday equated the Sept. 11 attacks against the World Trade Center with Israel's recent demolition of Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip, drawing immediate criticism from the United States. In his debut speech as a new U.N. Security Council member, Syrian representative Fayssal Mekdad said the 15-member body practiced a double standard in denouncing terrorism around the world but avoiding criticism of Israel.

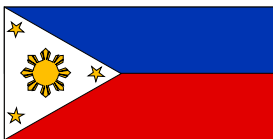
'We must note the scene of tens of Palestinian houses which were demolished by Israeli tanks in the Rafah camps a few days ago is not much different from the scene of the World Trade Center which was destroyed by the terrorists, whom we have all agreed here to combat and eliminate,' Mekdad said.

A U.S. official told reporters that 'the idea of equating the destruction of the World Trade Center and the demolition of homes that has been going on in the territories is outrageous.'..."

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## PHILIPPINES UNEASY ABOUT AMERICAN FORCES

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*Jan 20, 2002 The New York Post* reports: "A political firestorm has erupted in the Philippines over the impending arrival of some 650 American soldiers dispatched to help battle an Islamic insurgency. A few senators here are even demanding the impeachment of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, only a year into her term, and her vice president has said he feels uneasy about the policy.

In an attempt to calm the political furor in a nation that 11 years ago voted to end a century of nearly unbroken American military presence, Philippine and American officials today stressed again and again that Filipinos will do the fighting and Americans will do the advising.

'There will not be joint operations, there will be operations of Philippine troops, with American advisers,' Lt. Gen. Narciso L. Abaya, deputy chief of staff of the Philippine armed forces, said in an interview in the military's command headquarters. 'It will be 100 percent Filipino. The Filipinos will call the shots.'

At the core of the American military mission is a group of about 85 training sergeants from the United States Special Forces who are to work closely with Philippine units battling the Abu Sayyaf insurgents in the southern Philippines..."

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## SAUDI ARABIA MAY SEEK U.S. EXIT

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*Jan 18, 2002 The Associated Press* reports: "Saudi Arabia's rulers are increasingly uncomfortable with the U.S. military presence in their country and may soon ask that it end, according to several Saudi sources. Such a decision would deprive the United States of regular use of the Prince Sultan Air Base, from which American power has been projected into the gulf region and beyond for more than a decade.

Senior Saudi rulers believe the United States has 'overstayed its welcome' and that other forms of less conspicuous military cooperation should be devised once the United States has completed its war in Afghanistan, according to a senior Saudi official. The United States has been using a state-of-the-art command center on the Prince Sultan base that was opened last summer as a key command-and-control facility during the Afghan conflict.

Saudis give several reasons for deciding that the Americans should leave, beginning with their desire to appear self-reliant and not dependent on U.S. military support. The American presence has become a political liability in domestic politics and in the Arab world, Saudi officials say. The Saudi government has also become increasingly uncomfortable with a role in U.S. efforts to contain Saddam Hussein, and earlier ruled out use of Saudi territory as a base for bombing raids on Iraq..."