



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

09 FEBRUARY 2002

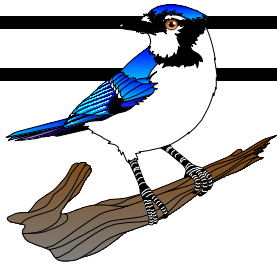
IRAQI OFFICIAL SAYS US COULD FACE A WORSE REPLAY OF 911

Feb 7, 2002 The Jordan Times reports: "Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan warned the United States that its 'dirty' policies could prompt retaliation even worse than the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington, according to an interview published Monday. Ramadan, who spoke to the Russian daily *Vremya Novostei* in Baghdad, reasserted that Iraq had nothing to do with the attacks. But he railed against what he called 'unjust' US foreign policy.

'Since Sept. 11, they (Americans) have further strengthened the course that led to the events in New York and Washington, their policies have become even more dirty,' Ramadan said. 'If things continue like this, I believe that America will draw an even stronger backfire. Something more terrible than Sept. 11 will happen. 'It would be a very, very tough response,' he added. He didn't say where specifically the threat to the United States would come from, or give any evidence to back up his warning.

The interview came after US President George W. Bush said in his State of the Union address that Iraq is part of an 'axis of evil,' fuelling speculation that Iraq might become the next target in the US-led 'war against terror.'

Bush's comments presented a major challenge to Russia, which has strong ties to Iraq but has so far backed the international 'anti-terrorism' campaign..."



AVIAN FLU STRAIN COULD TURN DEADLY FOR HUMANS

Feb 7, 2002 The Washington Post reports: "The avian flu virus that has killed tens of thousands of chickens here is mutating quickly and could turn deadly for humans, though it is not an immediate threat, a flu expert said Wednesday. It 'will need one little chance ... and this could give rise to a serious virus,' Dr. Ken Shortridge, a microbiologist at the University of Hong Kong who is heading an investigation into the flu outbreak, told Radio Television Hong Kong.

The latest outbreak of bird flu prompted authorities to order the slaughter of about 170,000 chickens at three farms. About two dozen farms were put under quarantine after fresh reports of infections. The exact number of chickens killed by the virus was not available Wednesday, though earlier reports said more than 30,000 birds had died.

Bird flu does not usually affect humans. However, the discovery of a new outbreak fanned fears that it could turn out to be H5N1-97, a virulent type of flu virus that crossed over to humans in 1997, killing six people..."

NORTH KOREA SAYS BUSH PLOTS FOR WAR

Feb 6, 2002 The Associated Press reports: "North Korea on Tuesday accused the United States of plotting a war to occupy the communist state and warned it has 'unlimited striking power' to repel any aggressors.

President Bush has warned North Korea and Iraq that they would face consequences if they produce weapons of mass destruction. North Korea also is on a U.S. list of nations sponsoring terrorism. In his State of the Union speech last week, Bush said North Korea was part of an 'axis of evil' with Iran and Iraq.

North Korea said Bush's remarked that 'he (Bush) openly revealed his dangerous design to seize North Korea by forces of arms, groundlessly linking it with terrorism,' said the Rodong article, which was carried by the North's state-run news agency, *KCNA*, and

monitored in Seoul. The 'option to 'strike' on the lips of the U.S. is not its monopoly,' it said. 'Our revolutionary armed forces have unlimited striking power and no aggressor against North Korea will go safe no matter where they are on earth.'

North Korea is believed to have stockpiled enough plutonium to make one or two atomic bombs and thousands of tons of chemical and biochemical weapons. The United States keeps 37,000 troops in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended without a peace treaty. The Koreas share one of the world's most heavily armed borders..."

COLIN POWELL SAYS PRESIDENT IS DEAD SERIOUS ON 'AXIS OF EVIL' NATIONS

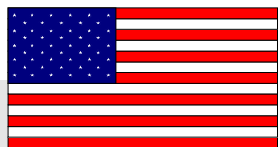
Feb 6, 2002 *The New York Times* reports: "Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said today that President Bush's linkage of Iraq, Iran and North Korea into an 'axis of evil,' was 'not a rhetorical flourish — he meant it,' and he said that Iraq's overture to the United Nations to resume talks should amount to 'a very short discussion,' because weapons inspectors should immediately be allowed back in that country without conditions.

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Powell also said that the United States expects to meet Russia's demand for a 'legally binding' agreement on reducing nuclear warheads, whether that takes the form of a treaty ratified by Congress or some less formal document. By saying so, Mr. Powell confirmed comments by senior administration officials last week.

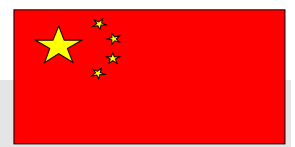
In more than two hours of wide-ranging testimony on the State Department's annual budget request, Mr. Powell left little daylight between himself and the White House on any topic, and sought to reassure senators from both parties that Mr. Bush had intended to make a deliberate statement in his State of the Union address last week that Washington will not stand by and let rogue regimes export weapons of mass destruction or terrorism.

'It isn't enough just to say that they are dangerous regimes,' he told Senator Chuck Hagel, Republican of Nebraska, a fellow Vietnam veteran who worried aloud that Mr. Bush might be stepping into a quagmire like Lyndon B. Johnson in Southeast Asia.

'That action is required doesn't mean that a war is going to start tomorrow, or that we're going to invade anybody,' Secretary Powell added. 'In fact, it may mean, in the short term, a focus on the policies that we have in place with respect to each of the three countries he mentioned, and other countries that might have been mentioned.'..."



CHINA SLAMS PRESIDENT BUSH OVER 'EVIL AXIS' SPEECH



Feb 4, 2002 *Reuters* reports: "China said Sunday President Bush's comments calling North Korea, Iran and Iraq an 'axis of evil' suggested the United States was preparing the ground for widening its 'war on terrorism.'

A strongly worded commentary, carried by the official *Xinhua* news agency less than three weeks before a planned Bush trip to Beijing to meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin, said no such axis existed between the three Asian nations.

'No small number of people suspect that by labeling Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an 'axis of evil' the United States seeks to prepare public opinion for possible strikes against those countries under the banner of anti-terrorism,' the article said.

Bush, who launched the U.S. 'war on terror' after the September 11 attacks on America, called the three states an 'axis of evil' in his State of the Union address last Tuesday and accused them of trying to develop weapons of mass destruction..."