



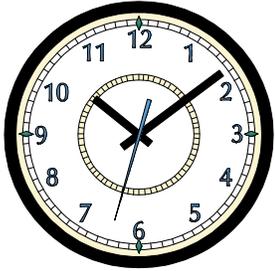
# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

02 MARCH 2002

## TERRORISM THREATS PROMPT DOOMSDAY CLOCK UPDATE



*Feb 28, 2002 USA Today* reports: "The hands of the Domsday Clock, for 55 years a symbol of nuclear danger, were moved two minutes closer to midnight Wednesday, reflecting the possibility of terrorism, relations between India and Pakistan, and other threats.

The symbolic clock, kept by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, had been set at 11:51 since 1998. It was moved to 11:53 p.m. George Lopez, the publication's chairman of the board, said it has never been moved in response to a single event.

Still, he said, the attacks of Sept. 11 combined with evidence that terrorists were attempting to obtain the materials for a crude nuclear weapon should have served as a wake-up call to the world. He said the world has focused on short-term security rather than solving long-term problems..."

## EURO CHANGEOVER ALMOST COMPLETE

*Feb 28, 2002 BBC News* reports: "Two months after it was introduced as a cash currency on 1 January 2002, the euro will finally become the sole legal currency in the 12 countries in the eurozone. France, Ireland, and the Netherlands have already abandoned their national currencies, while the remaining nine countries will say farewell to their national notes and coins by midnight central European time (2300 GMT).

Euro notes and coins have already received widespread acceptance by the 300 million citizens of the eurozone, with the vast bulk of transactions taking place using the new notes and coins by the end of the first week of January.

The rapid and smooth transition - and the successful logistical operation involving the transfer of billions of euro notes and coins to banks, retail stores, and vending machines - is a boost for the European Central Bank (ECB), which masterminded the operation. And it has given hope to those, like ECB president Wim Duisenberg, who see the euro as a broader symbol of the drive towards greater European economic and political integration..."

## 57 PEOPLE KILLED IN ATTACK ON INDIAN TRAIN

*Feb 28, 2002 Reuters* reports: "Fifty-seven people, mostly women and children, have been burnt alive when a trainload of Hindu activists was torched by a suspected Muslim mob in western India, authorities say. Hours after the morning attack in Godhra, police were still pulling charred bodies burnt beyond recognition out of the blackened carriage of the Sabarmati Express in Gujarat state.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee appealed for calm on Wednesday and canceled a trip to Australia for a Commonwealth summit.

In what appeared to be retaliatory attacks, two men were stabbed to death in separate incidents in the same region and local police asked New Delhi for reinforcements after shops and buses were set ablaze in Gujarat's main city, Ahmedabad.

The Hindu activists were returning from the northern town of Ayodhya, where hardline Hindus have been gathering to build a temple on the ruins of a mosque whose destruction a decade ago triggered riots in which more than 3,000 people died nationwide..."

## UNITED STATES TO WEIGH EMBEDDED COMPUTER CHIP

*Feb 27, 2002 The Associated Press* reports: "A Florida technology company is poised to ask the government for permission to market a first-ever computer ID chip that could be embedded beneath a person's skin.

For airports, nuclear power plants and other high security facilities, the immediate benefits could be a closer-to-foolproof security system. But privacy advocates warn the chip could lead to encroachments on civil liberties.

The implant technology is another case of science fiction evolving into fact. Those who have long advanced the idea of implant chips

say it could someday mean no more easy-to-counterfeit ID cards nor dozing security guards. Just a computer chip - about the size of a grain of rice - that would be difficult to remove and tough to mimic.

Other uses of the technology on the horizon, from an added device that would allow satellite tracking of an individual's every movement to the storage of sensitive data like medical records, are already attracting interest across the globe for tasks like foiling kidnappings or assisting paramedics.

Applied Digital Solutions' new "VeriChip" is another sign that Sept. 11 has catapulted the science of security into a realm with uncharted possibilities - and also new fears for privacy..."

## USA FACES EXCLUSION FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

*Feb 23, 2002 The Washington Times* reports: "The United States faces possible exclusion from the Council of Europe, where it enjoys observer status, over its continued use of the death penalty, a council spokeswoman said Friday.

The comments follow a decision of the council's Committee of Ministers on Thursday to ban the death penalty in all circumstances, including for crimes committed during war and the imminent threat of war.

'You know what Europe thinks of America,' council spokeswoman Henriette Girard told United Press International. 'It may now be a case of expelling the United States from its observer status. This is being looked at.'

The Council of Europe, comprised of 43 member countries from the European continent and five observer countries, is the first organization to have drawn up a legal text on the abolition of the death penalty, which allows no exception. It already was a de facto rule and no executions have taken place in member countries since March 1997.

The latest initiative, adding a protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, was promoted by Sweden in 2000, well before last September's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Called Protocol 13, the ban is to be presented for signature by members at the next session of the Committee of Ministers, the Council's decision-making body..."



**EUROPE**

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## EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF SOLANA TO PUSH SAUDI PLAN

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*Feb 27, 2002 The Jerusalem Post* reports: "European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said yesterday he will hold previously unscheduled talks in Saudi Arabia today with Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud in an effort to advance his peace initiative.

Abdullah's initiative calls for Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 lines in return for full diplomatic relations, normalized trade, and security guarantees from Arab countries.

Solana's spokeswoman, Cristina Gallach, said he would cut short his visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority for previously unscheduled talks with Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler.

'Mr. Solana would like to hear from Crown Prince Abdullah the ideas he has in mind,' Gallach said. 'At this point we can only talk about ideas. We haven't seen a plan.'

Solana said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told him during a meeting in Jerusalem he considers the initiative an interesting idea, and he would like to know more about its content.

'The prime minister said he would be ready to meet anybody from Saudi Arabia, formally, informally, publicly, discreetly, whatever, to get better information about this initiative,' Solana said.

US President George W. Bush praised the plan for the first time yesterday and called Abdullah to thank him for his initiative. 'The president praised the crown prince's ideas regarding the full Arab-Israeli normalization once a comprehensive peace agreement has been reached,' White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said..."