



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

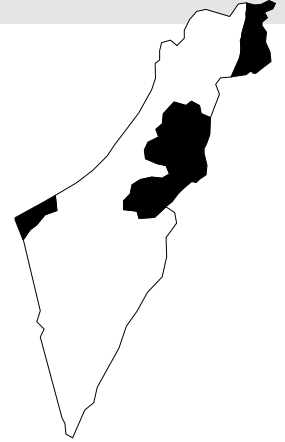
09 MARCH 2002

## MIDDLE EAST SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL

*Mar 6, 2002 The Independent* reports: "The war between Israel and the Palestinians spun further out of control yesterday, claiming at least 10 more lives as the international community watched, unable or unwilling to intervene.

In a day of fast-moving attacks and counter-attacks, Palestinian militants struck against civilians inside Israel, killing three in a Tel Aviv restaurant and one more with a suicide bombing on a bus. Israeli warplanes and helicopters launched missile strikes against the West Bank and Gaza, killing three Palestinian militants in a helicopter strike on a car in Ramallah.

Last night, Israeli officials said an Israeli baby was hurt when Palestinian militants fired a Kassam rocket from the Gaza Strip that landed next to a house in Sderot, the first time the makeshift missile has hit a residential area. In little more than a week, 61 Palestinians and 31 Israelis have been killed, including children on both sides, in one of the deadliest phases of the 17-month conflict, which spread despair among the international diplomats charged with keeping the region calm..."



Israel

## 30 NATIONS ARE NOW AIDING AL QAIDA

*Mar 6, 2002 The World Tribune* reports: "The U.S. Defense Department has recruited the intelligence agencies to track assistance to Al Qaida from Middle Eastern and Persian Gulf states.

U.S. diplomats and intelligence agents have been monitoring some 30 countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, defense officials said. The objective is to monitor Al Qaida insurgents who escaped from Afghanistan and have regrouped in other countries, the officials said.

Some of the countries where Al Qaida operatives are said to be regrouping include Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, the Philippines, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. The officials said the Palestinian Authority is also being monitored, Middle East Newline reported.

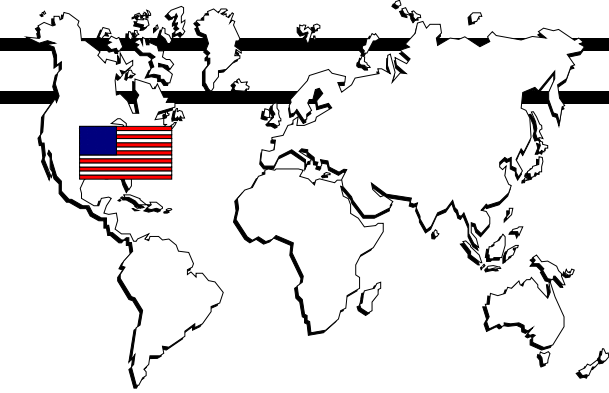
Defense officials said some of these countries may be harboring Al Qaida sleeper agents who could be activated later this year in attacks on U.S. military and diplomatic installations in the region..."

## EUROPEAN UNION VOWS RETALIATION OVER STEEL TARIFFS

*Mar 6, 2002 BBC News* reports: "There has been angry international reaction to US President George W Bush's decision to impose punishing tariffs on steel imports. President George Bush was responding to pressure from the US steel industry, which is struggling to compete with cheaper products from abroad.

The European Union said the decision broke international trade rules, and promised to launch an immediate complaint with the World Trade Organization. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said it would take whatever measures were necessary to protect its own industry. BBC Brussels correspondent Chris Morris says that raises the prospect of direct retaliation by the EU imposing its own tariffs on American steel.

Mr Bush defended the move, saying it would allow US industry to compete on a 'level playing field' and recover from the damage he said had been caused by '50 years of foreign government intervention in the global steel market'. A host of other countries have expressing their worries over the US decision, including Japan, Brazil, Australia and South Korea..."



## GLOBAL POLICEMAN COMES UNDER FIRE AT FORUM

*Mar 6, 2002* *The Moscow Times* reports: "A symposium with former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl as a guest of honor was supposed to assess Russia and Germany's place in a post-Sept. 11 world.

But participants quickly realized that they could not define the roles without first figuring out where the United States fits in -- and the discussion, amid talk of the 'arrogance of power,' turned into a heated debate over whether Washington was acting as a

global police officer.

'I'm afraid that the U.S. will launch a unilateral attack on Iraq and that its action will be imperfect and a war will start,' said Sergei Karaganov, head of the Council of Foreign and Defense Policy. 'The United States, whether we like it or not, is the world's policeman,' he said, adding, 'It's worse than having no policeman at all.'

Much of the interest was focused on the only U.S. representative, Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. 'I can fully understand the sense of resentment at the unusual position that the United States occupies in the world today,' Brzezinski said in response to barbed remarks.

Brzezinski said that U.S. dominance would likely continue for another 20 years but that the most successful balance to this would be the development of other strong international players. Europe does not have a consistent foreign policy while it is undergoing a process of amalgamation, but this could be rectified in a couple of decades, and Japan should also play a greater role than it does, he said..."

## FEARS PROMPT U.S. TO BEEF UP NUCLEAR TERROR DETECTION

*Mar 4, 2002* *The Washington Post* reports: "Alarmed by growing hints of al Qaeda's progress toward obtaining a nuclear or radiological weapon, the Bush administration has deployed hundreds of sophisticated sensors since November to U.S. borders, overseas facilities and choke points around Washington. It has placed the Delta Force, the nation's elite commando unit, on a new standby alert to seize control of nuclear materials that the sensors may detect.

Ordinary Geiger counters, worn on belt clips and resembling pagers, have been in use by the U.S. Customs Service for years. The newer devices are called gamma ray and neutron flux detectors. Until now they were carried only by mobile Nuclear Emergency Search Teams (NEST) dispatched when extortionists claimed to have radioactive materials. Because terrorists would give no such warning, and because NEST scientists are unequipped for combat, the Delta Force has been assigned the mission of killing or disabling anyone with a suspected nuclear device and turning it over to the scientists to be disarmed.

The new radiation sensors are emplaced in layers around some fixed points and temporarily at designated 'national security special events' such as last month's Olympic Games in Utah. Allied countries, including Saudi Arabia, have also rushed new detectors to their borders after American intelligence warnings. To address the technological limits of even the best current sensors, the Bush administration has ordered a crash program to build next-generation devices at the three national nuclear laboratories..."