



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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CHINA TO CONSTRUCT SPACE STATION

April 4, 2002 Xinhua News Agency reports: "A senior officer in charge of China's manned space program said recently that after launching astronauts into outer space, the country is planning to construct a permanent space station. The officer said that after several test flights of unmanned spaceships, China will send its own astronauts into the space early this century.

To launch a manned space mission, Chinese space scientists need to construct and launch a space lab in near future and follow up with a space station, the officer said.

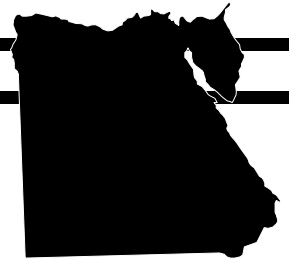
He said that 'Shenzhou III', or China's third unmanned experimental craft which was launched on March 25 and returned Monday afternoon, is 'technically suitable for astronauts'. A set of metabolic simulation apparatus, human physical monitoring sensors and dummy astronauts have been installed aboard the spaceship. He added that the successful launch and return of 'Shenzhou III' has laid a solid foundation for the country's future efforts to send man into outer space..."



Israel

EGYPT SUSPENDS MOST TIES WITH ISRAEL

April 4, 2002 The Guardian Unlimited reports: "Egypt is to suspend all contacts with Israel except any diplomatic ties that might help the Palestinians, the Egyptian minister of information announced today.



Egypt

Mr. Sherif was quoted by Egypt's *Middle East* news agency as saying Egypt would limit its contacts with Israel to those that 'serve the Palestinian cause', indicating the move falls short of cutting all ties. Egypt, one of only three Arab states with diplomatic relations with Israel, has been under pressure to cut its diplomatic ties altogether and freeze its 1979 peace treaty with the Jewish state.

The Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, sent a message to the US president, George Bush, yesterday urging him to 'take immediate action' to stop the Israeli offensive.

The Arab League's secretary general, Amr Moussa, announced today that an emergency foreign ministers meeting would take place on Saturday at the league's Cairo headquarters. A meeting was requested by the Palestinians to forge a unified stance against Israel's invasion of Palestinian cities and the quarantining of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat..."

SAUDI ARABIA READY TO DEPLOY MISSILES

April 4, 2002 The Middle East Newslines reports: "Saudi Arabia has prepared for the deployment of intermediate-range ballistic missiles in its southern desert.

A Washington-based defense group reports that Saudi Arabia has built facilities for intermediate-range missiles in a newly-constructed complex north of the desert oasis of Al Sulayyil. The complex is said to contain two missile launch areas six kilometers apart as well as a huge support system.

Global Security, the defense group, released photographs taken three weeks ago from the Ikonos satellite of what were identified as two missile bases and a complex of 33 buildings, eight of them capable of storing Chinese CSS-2 missiles. The photographs, also published in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot, identified the missiles as the CSS-2, reported to have a range of between 2,500 and 3,500 kilometers. The missile, 24 meters long, is capable of carrying a nonconventional warhead.

The organization, which analyzed the satellite photographs said the missile launch complex located 27 kilometers north of Al Sulayyil consists of a site support area and two launch areas. Global Security said the support area was 'probably used in the construction and ongoing maintenance of both launch sites.'..."

INTELLIGENCE SAYS ARAFAT APPROVES NEW SUICIDE MISSIONS

April 3, 2002 WorldTribune.com reports: "Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has approved plans to send 30 suicide bombers to Jerusalem, Israeli military intelligence officers said. The officers said Arafat approved plans for a combined effort by his Fatah movement and such Islamic opposition groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad to send at least 30 suicide bombers to Jerusalem. The officers said Jerusalem was chosen because of its symbolic importance to Arafat and his efforts to convert the city into a Palestinian capital.

'The operation is meant to carry out Arafat's threat to send what he terms a million martyrs to Jerusalem,' an intelligence officer said. 'When Arafat talks of martyrs, he means suicide bombers.'

In all, the officers said, nearly 100 suicide attackers are being prepared for missions in Israeli cities. They said the attackers are being equipped with explosive belts and trained on how to avoid Israeli troops and cross from the West Bank into the Jewish state.

Over the weekend, Arafat pledged to send millions of martyrs to Jerusalem. In an interview with the *Doha-based A-Jazeera* satellite channel, Arafat urged Palestinians to participate in what he termed a mission of martyrdom.

'To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions,' Arafat said in a chant. 'To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions. To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions.'..."



Turkey

CHRISTIANS AND JEWS TARGETED BY AL QAIDA IN TURKEY

April 3, 2002 WorldTribune.com reports: "Turkey has been placed on alert for an attack by Islamic insurgents on churches and synagogues in the country. The Turkish security agency relayed an alert to authorities of an imminent attack on Christian and Jewish houses of worship. The warning said such an attack could come from Islamic insurgency groups linked to Al Qaida.

Officials said the alert stemmed from a bombing of a church in Pakistan last month, an attack attributed to Al Qaida supporters. They said Islamic militants have threatened to launch similar attacks on Christian and Jewish houses of worship in Turkey and in other countries allied with the U.S. in the region.

So far, the focus of attacks have been in France. Over the weekend, French authorities reported five attacks on synagogues and other Jewish institutions. The latest took place on late Sunday when a Marseille synagogue was torched.

The Turkish alert urges police and paramilitary border troops to heighten their vigilance. Over the last month, Turkey has arrested scores of suspected Al Qaida sympathizers, some of them who crossed the border from Iran. Officials said Al Qaida has targeted Turkey among several NATO allies..."