



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## EU TO STOP SHORT OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

*April 16, 2002* *The EU Observer* reports: "EU foreign ministers are set to stop short on Monday, of taking any punitive action against Israel due to opposition by Germany. The 15 ministers will consider at their meeting in Luxembourg options for stepping up pressure on Israel, to convince the government of Ariel Sharon to stop its offensive against Palestinian cities.

However, any punitive action against Israel, including trade sanctions, requires unanimous agreement of the 15 EU states. The EU is more likely to stand behind the current American peace mission to the region instead of adopting a tougher stance that could burn bridges with Israel.

A German plan to send an international buffer force to the region after a ceasefire, was highly criticized by Israeli officials just hours before the meeting in Luxembourg..."



*Syria*

## SYRIA WITHDRAWS TROOPS IN PREPARATION FOR ISRAELI ATTACK

*April 16, 2002* *The Middle East Newslite* reports: "Syria has withdrawn the bulk of its troops from Lebanon's central region toward the well-protected Bekaa Valley in preparation for an Israeli attack.

Israeli intelligence sources said the Syrian redeployment of thousands of troops from the Beirut and coastal areas of Lebanon coincided with the current Hizbullah offensive along the Israeli border. The sources said Syria expects Israel to target Syrian troops and facilities in retaliation for Hizbullah rocket and mortar attacks.

'The Syrian redeployment is tactical and seeks to remove troops from exposed regions of Lebanon to the Bekaa Valley, where Syria has heavy anti-aircraft defenses,' a senior intelligence source said. 'This time, Syria is ready for an Israeli strike.'

The Israeli intelligence assessment asserted that Damascus was stunned by Israeli strikes on Syrian military installations in Lebanon in April 2001. The Syrian military has bolstered its surface-to-air missile umbrella, including SA-4 and SA-7, in the Bekaa Valley and improved its arsenal of Scud-class missiles. This has included tests of the Scud C and Scud D, both of which can carry chemical warheads..."

## IRAQ EQUIPPING TO ATTACK ISRAEL

*April 15, 2002* *The Middle East Newslite* reports: "Iraq's military has launched plans to attack Israel in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority.

Iraqi Defense Minister Sultan Hashim Ahmed said Iraqi forces are training and equipping for a military campaign against the Jewish state. Ahmed said Iraqi forces will be in the forefront of an Arab war against Israel.

'The armed forces will be the cutting swords in the liberation of our territories in Palestine, including Jerusalem, usurped by the Zionists,' Ahmed said in a telegram to President Saddam Hussein. 'It is continuing its training and its mission is facing up to the forces of evil and oppression, represented by criminal America and its odious Zionist ally.'

Ahmed, in a telegram quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, did not specify military plans or equipment being deployed for the operation. The Saddam regime has called for the mobilization of 6.5 million volunteers in the war against the Jewish state..."

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## COMPLETE GENOME MAP 'IN 2003'

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*April 15, 2002* *BBC news* reports: "The sequencing of the human genome will be finished by next year, according to the new president of the Human Genome Organization.

It has been almost two years since scientists announced they had completed a rough draft of the three billion 'letters' that make up the biochemical instructions for life.

Now, scientists from the publicly funded effort say they have carefully and precisely read about 70% of our DNA and should have more than 90% of it in this 'gold standard' format within 12 months.

Speaking before the opening of the seventh International Human Genome Meeting in Shanghai, Professor Yoshiyuki Sakaki said the detailed information would allow researchers to more easily target the causes of disease.

The human genome has about 3.2 billion bases - the chemical components that hold the double-stranded DNA molecule together. It is these bases, or letters, that spell out the genes - the instructions cells use to build and maintain the body..."

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## NUCLEAR-TIPPED INTERCEPTORS STUDIED

*April 13, 2002* *The Washington Post* reports: "Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has opened the door to the possible use of nuclear-tipped interceptors in a national missile defense system, reviving an idea that U.S. authorities rejected nearly three decades ago as technically problematic and politically unacceptable.

William Schneider Jr., chairman of the Defense Science Board, said yesterday that he had received encouragement from Rumsfeld to begin exploring the idea as part of an upcoming study of alternative approaches to intercepting enemy missiles...

The Pentagon experimented with nuclear-armed interceptors in the 1950s and 1960s and, for a short time in the mid-1970s, deployed an anti-missile system that relied on them. But the notion of nuclear explosions going off high overhead to block incoming missiles proved unsettling for many people. And the prospect that ionized clouds and electromagnetic shock waves associated with the explosions could end up blinding radar on the ground and scrambling electronic equipment eventually helped kill the plan.

Since then, defense officials have focused on developing interceptors to destroy targets without the need for explosives, relying instead on the force of direct impact, a concept known as 'hit to kill'..."

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## NETANYAHU TELLS U.S. NOT TO WAIT FOR CALM IN ISRAEL BEFORE HITTING IRAQ

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*April 13, 2002* *Ha'aretz* reports: "Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night told the U.S. administration not to wait until there is calm in the territories before going ahead with its planned attack on Iraq.

Netanyahu apparently spoke to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon before going to the White House to meet with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. He also briefed the prime minister at the meeting's end. Cheney and Rice had requested the meeting.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Israel last night. Just before his arrival, the U.S. proposed to Israel that a third party - apparently the British - take custody of the wanted men in the Church of the Nativity and in Ramallah's besieged Palestinian Authority compound and hold them in the Palestinian areas. Sharon agreed - as long as they are put on trial in Israel.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has agreed to send the appropriate men for the job and to oversee the arrest and imprisonment of the suspects..."