



PROPHETIC TIMES

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FBI WARNS AGENTS OF MORE ATTACKS BY AL-QAIDA

April 25, 2002 *The Associated Press* reports: "The FBI quietly warned its agents nationwide of unconfirmed information from a captured senior al-Qaida official that terrorists may be planning attacks against supermarkets or shopping centers, law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

The warning, sent Tuesday to all FBI field offices and relayed to some state and local police, cautioned that the information was unsubstantiated and did not include specific information about possible targets, timing, numbers of people involved or any particular method of attack.

The warning said that al-Qaida operatives inside the United States may be planning attacks against civilian targets, possibly including banks, shopping centers, supermarkets and shops, law enforcement officials said. The information came from Abu Zubaydah, the highest-ranking al-Qaida terrorist leader in U.S. custody, they said.

The information that prompted the new warning was considered less reliable than last week's about possible attacks on banks in the northeastern United States..."

PRIME MINISTER SAYS EGYPT WILL WAGE WAR IF \$100 BILLION RAISED

April 25, 2002 *Ha'aretz* reports: "Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Ebeid hinted to a Persian Gulf newspaper Wednesday that his country would be ready to wage war on Israel if the Arab states were to send \$100 billion to fund it. 'If you want to take action, if you are ready to rise to the challenge, you must send \$100 billion,' the prime minister told *Al Itiihad* when asked why Egypt, which is 'the largest Arab state,' had not responded to Israel's offensive against the Palestinians.



'I told you that we wanted \$100 billion,' he told the paper when asked if Egypt could at least 'expel the Israeli ambassador' from Cairo. The Arab world must allocate \$100 billion from Arab coffers deposited around the world. It must say to Egypt: 'This is the national budget. This budget is at your disposal, start the confrontation'..."

RUSSIA MAY BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NEAR BORDER WITH NORTH KOREA

April 24, 2002 *Agency France-Presse* reports: "Russia may not build a nuclear power plant in North Korea, as Pyongyang had earlier suggested, but rather set up the facility near its border with the Stalinist state, according to an official with the Russian nuclear energy ministry.

Building the plant on Russian soil would prevent the disseminating of 'advanced nuclear technology on the territory of a foreign country' and allow Russia's energy-strapped far east to benefit from the facility, the *RIA Novosti* news agency quoted the official as saying Tuesday.

A decision may be made when President Vladimir Putin's envoy to the Russian far east makes a visit to neighboring North Korea later this month. A top North Korean official on a visit to Russia last month urged Moscow to build a nuclear power plant in the hermit state. Russia said it would study the proposal made by North Korean parliament speaker Choe Tae Bok.

North Korea along with Iraq and Iran has been branded by US President George W. Bush an 'axis of evil' seeking to develop weapons of mass destruction. Russia is building a nuclear plant at Bushehr in southwestern Iran despite objections from the United States, which fears Tehran is using the project to develop nuclear weapons..."

PRIME MINISTER SHARON HINTS AT NEW OFFENSIVE ON GAZA STRIP

April 24, 2002 The Independent reports: "Ariel Sharon may be planning a military offensive against the Gaza Strip, the heartland of anti-Israeli militancy. The Israeli Prime Minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that 'terror' in the Gaza Strip was 'ongoing', remarks that will be seen by many Israelis as an indication that tanks and troops are poised to strike.

Gaza is said by sources to be 'wired' for an attack, raising the possibility of a battle that could dwarf the nine-day conflict that led to the devastation of Jenin refugee camp. Ominously, a senior Israeli army officer reported to the same committee yesterday that there had recently been 250 'terror attacks' in the strip.

Amid international concerns there may soon be another stage of Mr. Sharon's 'war on terror', efforts continued to try to resolve the stand-off that resulted from the first phase..."

LE PEN TO 'TAKE FRANCE OUT OF EU'

Following his stunning success in the first round of voting in the French presidential elections, Le Pen said on Monday he was prepared to take France out of 'the Europe of Maastricht.'

The ripples from Le Pen's success are spreading across Europe with nationalists in other countries gathering strength from the result while others, including a forum of Jewish world leaders being held in Brussels were horrified.

Le Pen told reporters: 'I am not an enemy of Europe. I am a partisan of a Europe of nations, a Europe of homelands, but I am a determined adversary of a supranational, federal, federalizing Europe. 'What I have not accepted in the Europe of Brussels is that it was said to be irreversible.'

Although Le Pen, 73, is widely forecast to lose in the second round runoff to French President Jacques Chirac, his success has shaken France..."

BLAIR SAYS BRITAIN HAS TO PLAY A 'FULL PART' IN EURO

April 23, 2002 The EU Observer reports: "Prime Minister Tony Blair made his most positive comments so far about Britain joining the euro, at a private meeting of Labour MPs, by saying that British future lays in 'playing a full part in the European Community and the euro'.

According to *The Independent*, Blair's remarks have increased the speculations among Labour MPs that the prime minister intends to call for a euro referendum as soon as next year.

The meeting took place already, 12 days ago, but the Labour officials claimed then that Blair did not talk specifically about the euro. However, the minutes of the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, which leaked to *The Independent*, confirmed that the prime minister really was talking about the single currency membership..."

AL-QAIDA LEADER: DIRTY BOMB POSSIBLE

April 23, 2002 The Associated Press reports: "Abu Zubaydah, the senior al-Qaida field commander in U.S. custody, told his interrogators that the terrorist network knows how to build a 'dirty bomb,' a terror weapon capable of dispersing radioactivity over a wide area, a U.S. official said Monday.

Officials don't know whether to believe Abu Zubaydah, who also recently claimed al-Qaida is targeting banks in the northeastern United States. That report was the basis of an FBI alert last week. 'It could be he's not being truthful,' the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. 'It could be that he's boasting.'

Abu Zubaydah's statements further confirmed al-Qaida's interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction, but they don't suggest the group has any unknown capabilities, the official said."