



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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PALESTINIAN MASSACRE REDUCED TO DEATH TOLL OF 56

May 1, 2002 *The Washington Times* reports: "Palestinian officials yesterday put the death toll at 56 in the two-week Israeli assault on Jenin, dropping claims of a massacre of 500 that had sparked demands for a U.N. investigation.

The official Palestinian body count, which is not disproportionate to the 33 Israeli soldiers killed in the incursion, was disclosed by Kadoura Mousa Kadoura, the director of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement for the northern West Bank, after a team of four Palestinian-appointed investigators reported to him in his Jenin office.

[Two weeks ago, when European and particularly London newspapers were reporting estimates of 'hundreds' massacred, Israeli sources in Washington said they expected the Palestinian toll to reach '45 to 55.']

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan suggested yesterday, in the wake of the Palestinian body count, that he may disband a U.N. fact-finding team that was to visit the camp to determine whether a massacre had taken place.

Mr. Annan was responding to a decision by the Israeli security Cabinet earlier in the day not to cooperate with the U.N. team..."

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPLIERS DISMAYED BY ISRAELI EMBARGO

May 1, 2002 *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Several European contractors have quietly warned their governments of the consequences of a suspension of defense relations with Israel. The contractors, which have established joint ventures with their Israeli counterparts, warned that imposing an embargo on the Jewish state would harm military projects in Europe. They said European countries such as Belgium, France, Holland, Italy and Switzerland have launched deals for the supply of Israeli weapons and platforms.

Last week, the state-owned Swiss defense contractor Ruag warned that its munitions production would be harmed by a suspension of defense ties with Israel. Switzerland is one of handful of European countries that have announced a review of relations with the Jewish state amid its military campaign in the West Bank.

Over the last three years, Switzerland has ordered a range of weapons, munitions and platforms from Israel. Industry sources said Switzerland has ordered \$107 million worth of artillery guidance systems, unmanned air vehicles and ammunition from Israel..."



IRAN COMPLETES FIRST NAVAL DESTROYER

May 1, 2002 *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Iran reports the construction of its first naval destroyer. Iranian officials said the Defense Ministry and navy have completed construction of the destroyer, termed Moje. They said the destroyer will soon be introduced into service.

The completion of the destroyer is said to mark the greatest achievement for Iran's defense industries. Iran has manufactured such platforms as patrol crafts and mini-submarines based on Chinese and North Korean technology.

Iranian deputy naval commander Adm. Massoud Sarikhani said the destroyer will have advanced subsystems that will enable it to conduct offensive and defensive missions. Sarikhani said the Moje will have capabilities in anti-submarine warfare and air defense..."

TOP CIA OFFICIAL WARNS NEXT TERROR ATTACK UNAVOIDABLE



April 29, 2002 Agency France-Presse reports: "A top Central Intelligence Agency official has warned Americans that a new terrorist attack is unavoidable, despite all efforts to prevent it and the fact that the CIA is now 'stealing more secrets' than ever.

'Now for the hard truth. Despite the best efforts of so much of the world, the next terrorist attack -- it's not a question of if, it's a question of when,' CIA Deputy Director for Operation James Pavitt told an academic conference earlier this month. 'With so many possible targets and an enemy more than willing to die, the perfect defense isn't possible.'

Pavitt said mounting foolproof countermeasures against terrorism would require sacrificing many civil liberties, which make American society great, and, as a result, would produce a system that, in his view, 'is not worth defending.'

The warning was contained in an address delivered by Pavitt, who is in charge of all clandestine operations conducted by the agency, at an April 11 conference at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. The CIA released its transcript over this weekend.

US law enforcement agencies are already on heightened alert after the Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued at least two terrorism warnings over the past 10 days. The FBI said it had intelligence about attacks being planned against financial institutions in northeastern US states and against shopping malls..."

ROMANO PRODI SAYS BRITAIN AFRAID OF EUROPEAN UNION

April 29, 2002 *The Independent* reports: "Romano Prodi, the European Commission president, will deliver a withering attack on Britain today for being too 'afraid' of the European Union to take a leading role in shaping its future. He will mockingly contrast the country's willingness to be a junior partner of the US with its mistrust of all things European.

His comments mark the culmination of months of frustration in Brussels over Tony Blair's close alliance with President George Bush in the war on terrorism.

The Commission president's criticism will be music to the ears of Mr. Blair's party critics who accuse him of 'cozying up' to a Republican president to the detriment of European allies.

Mr. Prodi, a frequent critic of American foreign policy, has warned that the EU may oppose American-led action against Iraq. He has said Mr. Bush needs to convince Europeans that a widening of the war against terrorism to Saddam Hussein's regime can be justified.

Mr. Prodi will also challenge the Government to demonstrate the necessary 'political will and courage' to take Britain into the single European currency. His plea for Britain to play a full part in the EU will be delivered during a speech in Oxford today. He will say that, in contrast to its neighbors, Britain opted out of playing an influential role in the European community's development from its inception..."