



PROPHETIC TIMES

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SUBJECTS SEE LIGHT WITH BIONIC EYE

May 8, 2002 USA Today reports: "Six blind or near-blind people can now see light and in some cases pick out shapes and recognize faces after having an artificial retina inserted into their eyes, according to findings released by the co-inventor of the device. The findings raise hopes that the bionic eye may restore some sight for the estimated 10 million Americans afflicted with blinding eye diseases.

Alan Chow, the ophthalmologist who helped invent the Artificial Silicon Retina, and his colleagues tucked the computer retinas into a slit they made in the eyes of six people blinded by retinitis pigmentosa, a rare progressive degeneration of the retina. Solar cells in the device's microchip are supposed to replace the function of the retina's light-sensing cells that have been damaged by disease.

Doctors followed the patients for up to 21 months, and preliminary evidence hints that the device is working: All six had substantial improvement in their vision, says Chow, who will present the team's findings at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Researchers reported no signs of infection in the patients..."

MILITARY CHIEF CALLS FOR MERGING EU AND NATO

May 7, 2002 The EU Observer reports: "The chairman of the Military Committee of the European Union, General Gustav Hägglund, has called for a new common security system for Europe and America, under which the EU and the European parts of NATO would be linked and deal with crises in Europe and nearby.

Mr Hägglund suggested that this new EU-NATO organization would also take part of long-term operations and humanitarian missions outside Europe, reports the *Helsingin Sanomat*. Under Mr. Hägglund's vision the US would have to guarantee the safety of North America, worldwide crisis management missions and deal with terrorism.



Although Mr. Hägglund stressed that his proposal was 'speculative', his speech had been presented to the EU's foreign affairs envoy Javier Solana in advance. Mr. Hägglund assured that the organizational changes in the NATO would not mean the end of cooperation between Europe and US. The chairman of the EU Military Committee said that the military technology gap between US and NATO is growing and that makes the cooperation more difficult.

'It would be appropriate to build this community of values on two mutually supporting pillars: a European and a North American pillar. The European pillar would involve the EU and NATO's European parts appropriately linked together,' Mr. Hägglund said according to the *Helsingin Sanomat*..."

UNITED STATES GROUPS OTHER NATIONS WITH THE 'AXIS OF EVIL'

May 7, 2002 BBC News reports: "The United States has added Cuba, Libya and Syria to its 'axis of evil' - nations it claims are deliberately seeking to obtain chemical or biological weapons.

In a speech entitled '*Beyond the Axis of Evil*', US Under Secretary of State, John Bolton said that the three nations could

be grouped with other so-called 'rogue states' - Iraq, Iran and North Korea - in actively attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction. He also warned that the US would take action.

'America is determined to prevent the next wave of terror,' he said, referring to the 11 September attacks in Washington and New York that killed up to 3,000 people. 'States that sponsor terror and pursue WMD (weapons of mass destruction) must stop. States that renounce terror and abandon WMD can become part of our effort, but those that do not can expect to become our targets,' he said. Mr. Bush first referred to the 'axis of evil' during his State of the Union address earlier this year...'

IRANIAN LEADER BLASTS UNITED STATES, PRAISES BOMBERS

May 5, 2002 Reuters reports: "Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei launched a tirade against the United States Wednesday, accusing Washington of bullying. Khamenei, who holds all the key elements of power in Iran, also ruled out holding any talks with Washington.

'The Islamic Republic of Iran will never succumb to America's bullying,' state television showed Khamenei telling a meeting of teachers and workers in Tehran who responded with chants of 'Death to America, Death to Israel.' His remarks follow repeated U.S. denunciations of Iran as part of an 'axis of evil' for allegedly pursuing weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism -- charges Iran strongly denies.

Since President Bush first used the term 'axis of evil' in a speech three months ago, Tehran has buzzed with rumors of secret meetings between Iranian and U.S. officials and even talk of a special commission set up by Khamenei to pursue dialogue. But the supreme leader ruled out any such talks.

'No, negotiations will not solve any problem,' he roared. 'Negotiations with America are beneficial to the American government. With negotiations, they will find a place to impose their demands.'...'

TOM RIDGE EYES NEW DRIVER'S LICENSES

May 4, 2002 UPI reports: "Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge for the first time disclosed Thursday the Bush administration is studying ways to set national standards for driver's licenses that would assist in preventing fraudulent identification and expose aliens who overstayed their visas.

In a briefing for senators and the public arranged by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, Ridge said the Office of Homeland Security is studying proposals by the National Governor's Association and other state groups to establish national standards for operator's permits. Ridge said the White House would consider legislation that would do that. 'It may be helpful and appropriate at some time,' Ridge said. He said drivers' license expirations should also be linked to visa expirations.

Gordon Johndroe, Ridge's spokesman, told *United Press International* the Bush administration opposes a national identification card, but is working with several national associations including the governors and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators on ideas to make vehicle operators permits more standard.

One idea, he said, would be to issue resident aliens driver's permits linked to their visas. If an alien had a visa to visit the United States for six months, he or she would not be able to obtain a driver's permit that exceeded six months, Johndroe said. This would require, he said, a way for state departments of motor vehicles to be linked up with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or for states to call up INS records. He said that Homeland Security is also studying proposals to help state motor vehicle agencies link up...'

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